

Saudis, Qataris discuss border dispute

DOHA (AP) — Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Al Thani Wednesday discussed with Saudi Arabian Defence Minister Prince Sultan means of improving relations after a flareup in a border dispute between the two countries last year. The official Qatari News Agency reported the meeting, saying only that the two officials explored avenues for broadening cooperation in the interest of the two sides. Prince Sultan arrived in Doha Tuesday and met with the emir, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani. In December, the Qatari emir and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd signed an Egyptian-brokered border demarcation accord, easing tensions that had marred ties since the clash. Arab diplomatic sources said that during his talks with the Qatari crown prince, Prince Sultan voiced the kingdom's concern over Qatari overtures towards Iraq which followed the border flareup. Qatar is the only member of the Saudi-led Gulf Cooperation Council that sent an ambassador back to Baghdad after the 1991 Gulf war. The Arab diplomatic sources, insisting on anonymity, said that Tuesday Prince Sultan snubbed Iraq's ambassador at Doha airport. The ambassador, Anwar Sabri Abdul Razzak, opened his arms to embrace Prince Sultan, who was greeting Arab and Western diplomats lined up to welcome him. The Saudi official ignored the ambassador's gesture and walked straight past him.

هكنا من الأصل

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Egypt arrests 800 in secret cells

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, battling Muslim fundamentalists, has arrested more than 800 members of a group running school and university secret cells in a campaign to topple the government. Security sources said police had detained 822 members of a group called the Vanguard of the New Holy Struggle and charged them with forming an illegal organisation. They said religious tapes and books designed to win the hearts and minds of students were seized during 10 days of sweeps in several parts of the country. Police Major-General Ahmad Al Adli told a news conference that called for the overthrow of the government, discrimination against Egypt's Christian minority, and violence to establish a purist Islamic state. He said some of the tapes contained sermons by Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, a blind preacher in the United States whose followers have been linked to February's bombing of the New York's World Trade Centre (see page 2). Security sources said the arrests took place in Cairo's northern suburbs, the Nile Delta provinces of Sharqiya and Qalyubiya and the city of Alexandria. There are well away from the known centres of Muslim militant violence in Cairo's Imbaba slum and the Assiut area of Upper Egypt, where gunmen shot dead the mayor of a Christian village on Wednesday.

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Arab ministers to meet here in June

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab foreign ministers will meet in Jordan in early June to start the ninth round of Arab-Israeli peace talks. Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said Wednesday. Dr. Abu Jaber was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that he contacted foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation to hold a coordination meeting in Amman next month. "The date of the next Arab ministerial meeting was scheduled for early June," Dr. Abu Jaber said. "During the meeting, the ministers will undergo a comprehensive assessment of the peace process, particularly the ninth round of negotiations which ended in Washington recently."

Fahd hopes to visit Tehran

RIYADH (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati left Wednesday for prayers at Mecca after meeting earlier with King Fahd, who reportedly said he would like to visit Iran. Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency said King Fahd, during a meeting Tuesday with Mr. Velayati, expressed a desire to meet with President Hashemi Rafsanjani in Tehran. King Fahd also had invited Mr. Rafsanjani to visit Saudi Arabia. The visit of a Saudi monarch to Iran, unprecedented since the 1979 Islamic revolution, would be a dramatic demonstration of improving ties between the two oil giants.

Peres in China

BEIJING (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres arrived in China, Wednesday for an official visit between the two countries that established diplomatic relations only last year. An Israeli embassy official said Mr. Peres will begin his programme on Thursday by climbing the Great Wall outside Beijing, symbol of China's long history and former imperial might. He will then hold separate talks with Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, Culture Minister Liu Xueqiong and Wu Xueqian, a former foreign minister and vice premier who now holds an honorary post.

Israel, Egypt discuss reopening bank

CAIRO (AP) — Israel and Egypt opened discussions Wednesday on opening an Egyptian bank in the Israeli-occupied territories for the first time since the war in 1967. Jacob Frenkel, governor of Israel's central bank, expressed confidence after his first meeting with Egypt's central bank governor, Salah Hamed. They discussed reopening branches of the government-owned Arab Land Bank soon in the West Bank. "We can say we are in an advanced situation," Mr. Frenkel told the Associated Press. "I am optimistic."

Egypt denies Sudanese charge

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has rejected accusations by Sudan that its embassy in Khartoum has been involved in "hostile activities" against the Sudanese government. Foreign Minister Amr Musa said the allegations were "baseless" and accused "certain people in Sudan" of targeting Cairo, which has accused Khartoum of backing Islamic fundamentalist extremists in Egypt. On Tuesday the Sudanese government protested to Egyptian Ambassador Hassan Gal Al Haq for allegedly hiring a Sudanese national to carry out "hostile" activities against the regime.

2 reported missing near Iraqi border

KUWAIT (AP) — An Indian surveyor and an Egyptian builder working at a construction site near the Kuwait-Iraq border have gone missing. Oil Minister Ali Al Baghli said Wednesday. Sam Kutty, the Indian citizen, and co-worker Fathi Abdul Azeem, were last seen Monday working on a project, a gasoline station for the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission in the demilitarised zone straddling the border, the minister said.



Palestinians carry the body of Taher Abu Atiyeh, who was shot dead by Israeli soldiers Tuesday, for burial (AFP photo).

2 Palestinians shot dead near Hebron

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot dead two Palestinians and blew up alleged underground hideouts Wednesday during a helicopter-backed raid, military and Arab reports said.

One victim was allegedly armed with a submachine gun and both were flushed out of a shack south of the city of Hebron by anti-tank missiles, according to the army.

The raid came amid intense violence in the occupied territories, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where nine Palestinians, including four children, have been killed in the last week. An Arab teenager was also killed in the West Bank town of Beita Monday.

Also Wednesday, army sergeant Tihon Samuel died a week after being stabbed in the neck in an ambush by Palestinian assailants in the West Bank, the army announced.

The 21-year-old was stabbed May 12 in the stairwell of a house

in Nabulus where he manned a lookout post. The two attackers got away with the submachine guns of the sergeant and another wounded soldier.

In Gaza, United Nations relief workers revised the death toll from army gunfire in Jabaliya town Tuesday from three to two. They said one of the three Palestinians reported dead had been seriously wounded and transferred to hospital in Israel.

The army said Tuesday it had shot dead only one Palestinian who was carrying what later turned out to be a fake gun at a memorial service for an Islamic militant. Palestinians said nobody was carrying real or fake weapons.

Palestinians identified one of the dead Gazans as Awni Makousi, 18. The body of the other, a black Palestinian aged about 16, was taken away by soldiers, witnesses said.

The identity of the two Palestinians killed in Hebron was not disclosed.

The army said they were connected to the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas but Palestinians could not confirm this.

The army reduced the house where the two had hidden to a pile of rubble. The bloody bodies of the two were laid out in front of the ruin, their heads covered.

Hebron residents said the army had sealed off the city's western sector before searching caves and homes. Explosions were heard all night and helicopters hovered overhead.

Israeli military censors delayed publication of the report for several hours.

The army has intensified its search for Palestinian activists since sealing off the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in late March.

Hebron is a Hamas stronghold. In December, Hamas activists killed an Israeli soldier in the city.

Israelis have killed 29 Palestinians so far this month, a sharp rise in the casualty rate.

Palestinian draft outlines peace aims

AMMAN (R) — Palestinian negotiators said Wednesday they had resumed discussions with the United States on their draft declaration of principles for Middle East peace talks.

The draft, obtained by Reuters, sets October 1994 for starting negotiations on the final status of the occupied territories because it considers the interim period began on October 30, 1992, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sources said.

Palestinian negotiators and PLO sources confirmed the accuracy of the following English text, entitled Draft Proposal for a Declaration of Principles, and said it stated the principles to govern a final Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty.

Preamble:
The Palestinians and Israeli

side agree on the following principles in order to facilitate the progress of the negotiations and the peace process. It is the understanding of both sides that these principles, while constituting agreed upon bases for their negotiations, govern the whole process until the achievement of the detailed and final agreement.

1. The objective of the peace process is to reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace settlement through direct negotiations based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the principle of land for peace and in compliance with international legality.

The negotiations between the Palestinian and Israeli sides will be conducted in two phases, which are interlocked as an integral whole to fully implement the

forementioned resolutions, principle and legality.

It is the understanding of both sides that nothing should be done in the interim period that may preempt or prejudice the outcome of the final status negotiations. The agreement reached will achieve the full implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

2. A Palestinian interim self-governing authority (hereinafter PISGA) will be established through free, general and direct elections, under agreed appropriate international supervision.

All Palestinians who on June 4th (1967) were listed on the relevant population registers in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, as

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King and Clinton to meet on June 18

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein is scheduled to meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton in the third week of June for discussions on the Middle East peace process and Jordanian-American relations, informed sources said Wednesday.

The sources said the King was scheduled to leave for the U.S. around June 12 and will undergo routine medical check-ups at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, before heading for the meeting at the White House on June 18.

The sources, who preferred anonymity, noted that the King will be leaving Amman shortly after the wedding of his eldest son Prince Abdullah, which is scheduled to take place on June 10.

The French news agency, Agence France Presse (AFP), quoted its own sources as saying that the King had received an official invitation

from Mr. Clinton for a meeting on June 18.

What remained unclear was whether an expected government change or cabinet reshuffle would take place before or after the King's visit to the U.S.

The King's meeting with President Clinton will be the first between the two leaders, who have exchanged warm messages in the past four months after the former Arkansas governor entered the White House.

It will also be the first formal visit the king pays to the U.S. after relations were strained as a result of Jordan's perceived support for Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

President George Bush met with King Hussein in Washington immediately after the King left Mayo Clinic following surgery in August 1992. That meeting was seen more of a reflection of the friendly relations between Mr. Bush and the King rather than an official function.

Bilateral relations have picked up in the past two years, with the U.S. unfreezing part of its financial assistance to Jordan and playing a key role in encouraging its allies to extend help to the Kingdom.

U.S. and Jordanian armed forces have staged at least two joint exercises in the past year, with the latest taking place last month, when General Joseph Hoar, commander of the U.S. Central Command, visited Jordan.

The administration is seeking to release \$50 million frozen funds for Jordan. Although the amount of American assistance to the Kingdom is not huge, Washington's approach to aid is a key factor in determining the attitude of its allies in Europe and elsewhere.

During his talks with President Clinton, the King expects to "have a clear picture of Washington is viewing the (Arab-Israeli) peace process and what plans it has to

accelerate the pace of the negotiations," one of the sources told the Jordan Times.

Among other topics for discussion are, according to the source, Jordanian-American relations as well as the democratisation process under way in the Kingdom.

President Clinton and his senior aides, including Secretary of State Warren Christopher, have expressed their admiration for the King's moves in introducing and incorporating democracy into Jordan's life.

Experts from the mainstream American political spectrum have said that Jordan should serve as an example for other countries in the region in the growing global trend towards democracy.

The enforcement of sanctions against Iraq, whose sole official lifeline to the outside world is through Jordan, is also expected to be raised by the American side during the meetings in Washington.

Arafat criticises Israel over Hamas

TEL AVIV (AP) — In a rare news conference with Israeli journalists, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has said the Jewish state helped create its own problems with Muslim hardliners in the occupied territories.

He accused Israel of building up Islamic movements to rival the more moderate Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), then doing an about face with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's expulsion last December of more than 400 Islamic activists.

"Rabin thought that by helping Hamas he could create competition for the PLO," the Jerusalem Post quoted Mr. Arafat as saying. "Instead, he created extremism. Now today he's made 400 deportees into heroes."

The expelled, supporters of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements, have been stranded in South Lebanon for the past five months.

Mr. Arafat spoke to reporters from Israeli dailies in the Austrian capital Vienna Monday night, and the interview was published Wednesday.

His accusation about Hamas echoes some Israeli reports, which note the group was founded before the Palestinian uprising began in 1987 but was not declared an illegal organisation for nearly two years.

The PLO leader also expressed frustration at the slow pace of the U.S.-backed peace process and suggested violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip would be reduced if the Israeli army withdrew from Arab towns and refugee camps.

Mr. Arafat accused the Israelis of playing a game in the peace talks.

He said, for example: "We asked for elections. They said we

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King pays tribute to Royal Medical Services' achievements

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday expressed pride in the Royal Medical Services and its achievements and his absolute and continued support for its endeavours to achieve more progress.

Addressing members of the Royal Medical Services at Farah Rehabilitation Centre, King Hussein said: "The human being remains our prime responsibility and with him lies our hopes."

King Hussein said that he would make available all the requirements which will make the Royal Medical Services a model for others in the Arab World and expressed hope that efforts towards creating a national paediatrics centre would soon bear fruit.

King Hussein paid tribute to the present and former members of the services who, he said, started off with limited means and achieved a great deal.

The King urged members of the Royal Medical Services to exert more efforts in the face of the challenges and offer more sacrifices for the nation.

He also presented the Royal Medical Services with the Al Nahda Medal of the First Order.

The director of the Royal Medical Services, Major-General Yousef Qoutus, thanked the King for honouring the services and for his continued care and support.

Present with the King were

Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Prince Ghazi Ben Talal, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and other officials and senior army officers, including Lieutenant-General Abdul Hafez Mirat, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Health Minister Aref Bataineh briefed King Hussein on thalassaemia disease which is associated with countries in the Mediterranean region, including Jordan.

The King issued directives to the government to take steps towards carrying out a project to deal with thalassaemia in cooperation with the Royal Medical Services and the University of Jordan.

Denmark saves European unity plans, problems remain

COPENHAGEN (AP) — European Community (EC) leaders must turn their attention to unemployment, economic growth and world trade talks now that Denmark has approved the European unity treaty, Danish leaders said Wednesday.

Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, speaking after voters approved the treaty in a Tuesday referendum, said Denmark would press to reduce the high jobless rate in the 12-nation trading bloc and bring European economies out of recession. Denmark holds the community's rotation presidency.

Mr. Nyrup Rasmussen said Europeans must "use our energy to construct new European results, practical results, results in all those issues... employment coordinated economic policy, better environmental protection results, better minimum claims

and protection for ordinary workers in Europe."

Nearly 57 per cent of the 3.4 million voters who turned out approved the treaty Tuesday, overturning a decision last year to reject the accord, which calls for a common foreign policy and a single currency.

The Danes voted again after being granted exemptions from key provisions on defence policy, a single currency and citizenship, they also were allowed to opt out of the police and judicial cooperation.

The outcome cleared the way for Britain to end its holdout and vote on the accord.

British Prime Minister John Major appealed to treaty opponents for approval. "The sooner we put this debilitating period behind us, the better," he said late Tuesday in London.

His Conservative government

put off a vote in parliament until after the Danish referendum.

"What we have done today is taken a decision that has historic importance," Mr. Nyrup Rasmussen said in declaring victory Tuesday night.

But shortly after the results were announced, riots broke out in the centre of Copenhagen in one of the most violent battles with leftist anarchists in decades.

Danish police, who seldom draw their pistols, shot and wounded demonstrators. Mr. Nyrup Rasmussen defended the police, saying it was a matter of "life and death."

"Quite a high number of wounded policemen were lying on the ground in a very, very dangerous situation," he said at a news conference. He said the

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Jardaneh says sales tax is inevitable

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh Tuesday night clear sought to the ambiguities that surround the proposed sales tax issue for months and said, in a televised programme, that the new tax was only a step towards reforming the entire taxing structure.

The sales tax, the minister said, is the first stage of a three stage programme to implement a value-added-tax system in the Kingdom.

The second stage would involve taxing wholesalers after a period of five to seven years, and the third stage would tax retailers at a later date.

The minister said that the first stage of the sales tax was only an extension of the consumption tax, now in force, with minor changes which, through some additions

and deletions of a few products, would neutralise the financial effect on the Treasury.

Middle and low-income citizens would not be burdened, the minister explained, because the sales tax would be imposed mostly on goods and services seen as highly luxurious.

Mr. Jardaneh pointed out that imposition of the tax was a condition set by international donors and creditors.

Without a sales tax paving the way for a value-added-tax, the minister said, Jordan will not be given a grant of a low-interest \$400 million "exceptional funding" to support the balance of payment.

He warned that unless the sales tax is passed, Jordan has no alternative but to dig for other sources of financing even if it has to be local.

Mr. Jardaneh told viewers that the prime minister had personally



Basel Jardaneh

intervened with international bodies to postpone the introduction of the sales tax until the climate becomes more appropriate.

He repeatedly appealed to the public to understand that for the Kingdom to continue on a healthy economic course in the future, there was no escape for any government from relying on international revenues and export earnings.

"Nearly 40 per cent of government revenues come from customs," he said.

"We intend to raise the percentage to 60 per cent by 1998."

Mr. Jardaneh said that the prime minister had agreed to specify in the proposed law that the second stage of the sales tax would be introduced by a law and not by regulations.

He also revealed that industries were guaranteed by the law a 30 per cent minimum protection level.

Mr. Jardaneh strongly denied assertions that the sales tax would hurt the middle and low-income

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Mideast parties urged to reach out to each other

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The United States will continue to do everything it can to assist the parties to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, Secretary of State Warren Christopher says, but the parties themselves "need to see negotiations more as a process of give-and-take" in which they reach out to each other rather than remain mired in old positions.

Testifying before the House Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee Tuesday on the administration's fiscal 1994 foreign assistance budget request, Mr. Christopher was asked to assess progress in the ninth round of Middle East peace talks which adjourned last week.

"The key question remains with the Arabs, the Israelis and the Palestinians take advantage of the opportunities" the negotiations are affording them, the secretary said. "The results of the last three weeks have not definitely provided an answer," he said, although "the parties continue to engage each other seriously."

For the first time, he noted, the Israelis and the Palestinians formed "working groups." The Israelis and the Lebanese exchanged papers on the issues before them and defined the negotiations. Serious talks continued in the Israeli-Jordanian track and the Israeli-Syrian negotiations also continued on a serious basis, Mr. Christopher said.

Papers "of a substantive character" have now been tabled by all sides for the first time, he pointed out.

"The parties need to see negotiations more as a process of give-and-take, of engagements on terms that are designed to draw them closer together rather than to keep them mired in their traditional positions," the secretary said.

"They need to understand that negotiations here in Washington don't exist in a vacuum," Mr.

Christopher continued. "Reaching out to each other through public diplomacy, taking steps on the ground to reduce the possibilities of confrontation, and sending signals to their constituencies about the importance of the negotiations — all those things are necessary to create a climate where serious work can be done."

He pointed out the Clinton administration has been willing "to play an active role in this process" and was instrumental in bringing the parties back to the table after a hiatus of several months.

"In fact, on the Palestinian-Israeli track, which may be the most difficult of all the tracks, we put forward a paper designed not as a statement of U.S. policy but as an effort to capture the substantive progress that the two sides had made in the last three weeks," he said. "We think the process can work.... If the parties show significant and sufficient political will and creativity, we can help all three of them — the Israelis, the Arabs and the Palestinians — achieve the kind of real peace that their region has so long been denied."

Responding to questions, Mr. Christopher said the administration has requested foreign assistance aid levels for 1994 be continued at the current level "and not have it diminished in any way."

Asked how much of the \$3,000 million in American aid provided to Israel is spent in the United States each year, he said he was "quite sure it's more than half." Benjamin Gilman, the ranking Republican on the committee, asked about reports the United States was planning to provide \$1,200 million in development assistance to the West Bank and Gaza and some form of aid to Syria and Jordan if a Middle East peace is achieved.

Damascus declaration moves forward

DUBAI (Agencies) — A dormant cooperation accord between eight Gulf War Arab allies appears to have taken a first step to implementation in the economic field, diplomats said Wednesday.

But plans included in the agreement two years ago for forming a regional military force to include Egyptian and Syrian troops seem to have been shelved, an Arab diplomat said.

Economy and finance ministers of the eight states ended their first talks Tuesday night since the Damascus declaration on economic and military cooperation was signed in March 1991.

Officials said Syria and Egypt, which sent troops to the region during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, presented their oil-rich Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) partners at the meeting in Qatar with a number of development projects which need financing.

GCC Secretary-General Sheikh Fahim Ben Sultan Al Qasbi said after the meetings the Gulf Arab states were studying projects offered by Egypt and

Syria in the fields of water, energy and the sugar industry.

"The size of the investment has not been decided yet," the Qatari News Agency quoted Sheikh Fahim as saying.

"The assistance programme is now in the stage of discussions among the GCC states to provide the necessary funds to finance these projects," he added.

The GCC, a military and economic alliance set up six months after the Iran-Iraq war broke out in September 1980, groups Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

Egypt and Syria originally hoped for direct government aid in return for deploying troops in the Gulf as the core of a regional defence force.

But diplomats said the Gulf Arab states were now only willing to invest in economically viable private sector projects in the two countries.

Sheikh Fahim, a UAE national, said it has been decided to leave the military part of the Damascus declaration for GCC

states to agree upon bilaterally with Egypt and Syria.

"The idea of an eight-nation force seems to be over. Any security arrangements will be on a bilateral level now," an Arab diplomat said.

Kuwaiti Finance Minister Nasser Abdullah Al Rodhan said the economic part of the accord consisted of six points including granting the private sector a preference to play a major role in economic and social development.

An Arab diplomat said Syria and Egypt had thought they would draw from a GCC fund to finance development projects. "They had to do their homework first and come up with specific projects. Egypt and Syria have done this in Doha," he added.

The GCC set up in December 1990 a fund with a \$10 billion ceiling to help mainly Arab allies. GCC states — mainly Kuwait, the UAE and Saudi Arabia — have made pledges of about \$6.5 billion to the fund which will finance the proposed Egyptian and Syrian projects.

Veteran exiles find a transformed West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Writer Mahmoud Shuaibi, back in Jerusalem after almost 20 years in exile, spent his first days hunting ghosts.

His quest in wandering the main Arab artery of Saladin Street was not the uncounted ancient speckles that haunt the city, but memories from the years just before his 1975 expulsion.

Gone is the cafe where he and his fellow journalists used to scribble short stories in their spare time. Most of their newspapers have closed, and the old vendor is dead.

"Still I was happy to be there again, reliving all the details of my life before," he said.

The 30 veteran Palestinian activists, allowed back by Israel last month in an effort to spur peace talks, found landscapes radically altered.

It is not just the loss of old friends and old haunts. The entire political outlook of the West Bank has been sharply changed by the influx of Israeli settlers and the five-year-old intifada.

Hamas, the militant Islamic faction, did not even exist when they left.

"You find that every stone has a slogan on it," said Hanna Nasir, president of Bir Zeit University. He was 38 when the Israelis whisked him to Lebanon in the middle of the night on Nov. 21, 1974. He is 57 now.

Once the vanguard of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) opposition to Israel's post-1967 occupation, most of the gray-haired returnees want to find a role among the young men running the uprising against Israel's occupation.

Political activist Azmi Shuaibi, one of the youngest exiles at 44, cast doubt on the PLO's ability to run the affairs in the occupied territories.

He said his military structure has not been able to cope with the day-to-day tasks of running the municipalities since 1988, when Jordan formally severed its legal and administrative links with the territories.

"After 1967, the PLO was constituted of soldiers and officers from various factions in military camps in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. After 1988, the PLO is still soldiers and officers in civilian clothes working in offices in Tunis and the occupied territories," Mr. Shuaibi said.

Most of its institutions face a severe financial crisis. Dr. Nasir has to replace the \$1 million raised in the Gulf each year that was the backbone of the university's finances. Palestinian support for Iraq in the Gulf war destroyed that source of funding. Plus the Israelis shut the activist campus for four years during the occupation.

Mr. Shuaibi, expelled just seven years ago, thinks the solution to the daunting problems is a new, more community-oriented political party.

Others want to focus more on the violence of the Israeli army that has left over 1,100 dead, including scores of children. The presence of 147 settlements housing over 100,000 Israelis came as a shock. There were barely 20 in the early 1970s.

"The settlements are an awesome presence of the occupation.... It gives you a very, very sinking feeling that it is a much more difficult problem," said Dr. Nasir.

In Jerusalem itself, Ruhi Al Khatib is reasserting his claim to the title of mayor he says his 1968 expulsion did nothing to alter.

"When I left most of Jerusalem belonged to the Arabs, now most of it belongs to the Jews. Israel has done lots of activities to Judaize Jerusalem," he said.

Nosair expected to be indicted

ATTICA, New York (R) — Breaking his silence, Al Sayid Nosair, the Muslim activist jailed in the murder of Israeli extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane, says authorities are desperately trying to indict him in the World Trade Centre bombing.

In an interview at Attica state prison where he is serving a seven to 22-year term on charges related to the Kahane killing, Mr. Nosair admitted knowing three of the six Muslims indicted in the Feb. 26 bombing that killed six people and injured 1,000. But he denied involvement in the blast.

"I believe investigators are keeping my name in the media to prepare the public for my indictment in the trade centre bombing on something, anything," Mr. Nosair said, speaking out directly for the first time since the blast.

His lawyer William Kunstler says authorities want to put Mr. Nosair at the centre of "a large hypothetical conspiracy" and are trying to convince inmates at Attica to testify against him.

In a five-hour conversation last Friday under the watchful eye of

prison guards and video cameras, Mr. Nosair also charged that he is being hounded by authorities, kept in virtual isolation, with his privileges severely cut back and frequent searches of his cell.

"They search my cell every six weeks. Other inmate cells are searched twice a year," he said.

Mr. Nosair was cleared of assassinating Mr. Kahane in 1990 but was convicted of gun possession and assault in a gun battle outside the New York City where Mr. Kahane was killed.

Because of charges he threatened guards and misused the phone at Attica, Mr. Nosair has been stripped of prison privileges and will be kept in a detention area known as "the box" until 1996.

Except for weekly visits by his family, he must spend 23 hours each day in his cell, with one hour allowed for exercise. He says the allegations are "trumped up charges."

He admitted to knowing three of the suspects arrested in the bombing, including fellow Egyptian Mahmoud Abu Halima, the

alleged mastermind. He said that Mr. Abu Halima is an old and close family friend.

He also said he knows Mohammad Salameh, the first person arrested in the blast, and Nidal Ayyad, a chemical engineer accused of aiding in the plot.

Mr. Nosair admitted that Mr. Abu Halima and Mr. Salameh had visited with him several times at Attica, 480 kilometres from New York City, including one visit about a month before the bombing. Mr. Ayyad has not visited him, he said.

"We discussed our personal lives, our families and the Muslim community. We certainly did not discuss bomb-making," he said.

Mr. Nosair said he does not know the other three suspects, Bilal Al Kaiti, Ahmad Mohammad Ajaj, and Ramzi Yousef. All except Mr. Yousef are in custody.

Mr. Nosair accused the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of trying to implicate him in the bombing to portray Muslims as terrorists.

Sudanese leader slams aid agencies

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's President Omar Hassan Al Bashir, taking a swipe at international relief agencies, said Wednesday his government should not be blamed for a food and medicine crisis in the war-torn south.

U.N. officials estimate that almost 700,000 people in the southern Sudan, where rebels and the government have been locked in civil war for 10 years, are at risk of dying from starvation and disease.

Lieutenant-General Bashir said the government has 156,000 tonnes of relief aid available but international organisations have not met his request to provide transportation to bring the supplies to those in need.

Aid workers in Khartoum have said they are hampered by a lack of funds, and a 190-million appeal launched in January by United Nations relief agencies raised only \$40 million by the beginning of May.

Speaking at a forum organised by the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA), Gen. Bashir said relief agencies sent large amounts of aid to towns in southern Sudan when they were in the hands of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

Once government troops recaptured the towns, he said, the aid dried up and relief agencies withdrew.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. jeeps and trucks to Lebanese army

BEIRUT (AP) — The Lebanese army Wednesday received 30 jeeps and trucks donated by the United States to boost the 42,000-strong regular force. U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker, accompanied by Lebanese army officers, inspected the vehicles at Beirut port. Mr. Crocker told reporters the move was "a major step forward in the security assistance relationship between the United States and Lebanon." The vehicles, which had been part of the U.S. Army's reserves in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, were unloaded Tuesday. "There, they helped insure peace in Europe. Now, in the hands of Lebanese armed forces, they can be used for the same purpose in Lebanon," Mr. Crocker said. He said the donation was "a concrete demonstration of American support for the government and army of Lebanon as they work to spread the authority of the state over all Lebanese territory." The United States announced in March it was resuming its military training programme for the Lebanese army, interrupted during the 1975-1990 civil war.

Britain repeats demand on Libya

CAIRO (AP) — A British minister Wednesday repeated demands that Libya hand over two suspects indicted in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am plane over Lockerbie, Scotland. Douglas Hogg, minister of state for foreign affairs, said he discussed the Libyan issue with Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid. "We want to see the government of Libya comply with the Security Council resolutions and that does mean that the two people who have been charged should be tried before a proper court, which means the court of Scotland," Mr. Hogg told reporters. He said he and Mr. Abdul Meguid reviewed "ways in which the government of Libya can be persuaded to deliver the two people for trial." He did not elaborate. The 21-member Arab League and individual Arab countries have been trying to mediate an end to the crisis.

Detention of Bakhtiar suspect extended

PARIS (R) — A French judge said Tuesday he was extending for another year the pre-trial imprisonment of Zia Sarhadi, an Iranian charged with complicity in the 1991 murder of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar. Mr. Bakhtiar, Iran's last prime minister before the 1979 Islamic revolution, was stabbed to death along with his secretary at his home outside Paris on Aug. 6, 1991. Sarhadi, arrested outside the Iranian embassy in Bern in December 1991, is suspected of having played a part in plotting the murder and helping the killers to escape. Sarhadi was extradited from Switzerland last May 26. He is in jail awaiting trial, which has not been scheduled, and his one-year pre-trial detention term was due to end next week. French investigators say Sarhadi is the nephew of Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. The Iranian government says Sarhadi was an administrative employee at its Bern embassy and has denied allegations he played a role in Bakhtiar's death. French justice authorities are holding two other suspects in the case.

Sweden appeals to Iraq to pardon jailed Swedes

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden urged Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein Tuesday to pardon three Swedish telephone engineers serving seven-year jail terms for allegedly entering Iraq last September. But Foreign Minister Margaretha Al Ugglas said she had no intention of travelling to Baghdad in an effort to obtain the release of the Swedes. Ms. Ugglas, in a written reply to a question in parliament, said Sweden had spared no diplomatic effort to secure the liberation of Christer Stromgren, Leif Westberg and Stefan Whilborg. Ms. Ugglas said she had discussed the case with Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf at the United Nations in New York last year and had exchanged letters with him recently. Sweden maintains that the three men, working on a telephone contract in Kuwait for Telephone AB L M Ericsson, strayed by mistake over a poorly marked section of the border between Kuwait and Iraq on Sept. 3. Ms. Ugglas said she was appealing personally to President Saddam to exercise his right of pardon on humanitarian grounds.

Diplomats injured in Sudanese embassy brawl

BUCHAREST (AP) — Two Sudanese diplomats were injured Tuesday after a group of their countrymen started a fight in their embassy and set it on fire, officials and witnesses said. The two-story building, located on a quiet street in central Bucharest, suffered minor damage and most of its windows were shattered before firefighters put out the blaze. Police spokesman Dan Secieru said the assailants' motives were not yet known and refused to comment on reports that several people were arrested. Police sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said six club-wielding Sudanese citizens forced their way into the embassy around noon, attacked staff members and set a fire inside. Witnesses said they heard shouting from inside the building and saw the assailants burning the Sudanese flag and setting fire to two embassy cars. Embassy staff near the building appeared dazed and refused comment. Embassy official Salaheddin Ali Elifadil, 40, suffered head and other injuries after jumping out a first-floor window, said Tudorita Popescu of Bucharest's emergency hospital. His colleague Idris Ismail Farrag Alla, 32, was admitted with arm injuries. Taha Hassan Mohammad, a 28-year-old medical student, was also briefly admitted with minor arm injuries, Mr. Popescu said. It was not clear whether he was involved in the attack. Foreign ministry officials said they believed the assailants were students, but Mr. Secieru would not confirm this. Hundreds of Africans are studying in Romania, a legacy of the former communist regime's close ties with many African countries.

S. Africa names new Israeli ambassador

PRETORIA (AFP) — The South African government announced Tuesday its new ambassador to Israel would be Malcolm Ferguson, who last served abroad as a senior diplomat at the South African embassy in Washington. Mr. Ferguson replaces Johan Lotter as ambassador to Israel. The Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a statement. Informed sources said the appointment of Mr. Ferguson, who is currently head of the North Africa and Middle East desk of the foreign affairs department, would bring more of a balance to South Africa's relations with countries in the region. Mr. Ferguson was likely to try to preserve Pretoria's warm links with Israel while recognising the need for better relations with Arab countries. The African National Congress, which is likely to come to power after elections next year, is a longtime ally of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

On the Occasion of the Independence Day of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation

and

ServiceMASTER JORDAN

present



The Russian Folk Ensemble

WHITE DAY

In a

Musical Variety Show of Songs and Dances

Monday, 24 May 1993 - 8:00 p.m.

The Royal Cultural Centre

Thursday, 27 May 1993 - 8:00 p.m.

Al Hassan Bin Talal Auditorium

University of Jordan

Tickets for JD 6, 4 & 2 at:

- The Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 669026
- Babiche, Tel. 661322
- Romero Restaurant, Tel. 644227
- Philadelphia Hotel, Tel. 663100
- Philani Stores, Tel. 693775
- AUB Alumni Club of Jordan, Tel. 641325
- The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620

Artist Management: ESTETICA for promotion of culture and aesthetics.

The National Music Conservatory / Noor Al Hussein Foundation

and

Goethe Institut - Amman

present



a concert of

Gypsy, American Jazz and Blues and Latin Tango Music

by

The German MINOR STRINGS

Wednesday, 26 May 1993 - 8:00 p.m.

The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre

Tickets, for JD 5 each, are available at:

- The Royal Cultural Centre, Tel. 669026
- Babiche, Tel. 661322
- Romero Restaurant, Tel. 644227
- Philadelphia Hotel, Tel. 663100
- Goethe Institut, Tel. 641993
- The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 687620

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Pif et Hercule

17:45 Superchamps

18:15 L'école des fans

19:00 News in French

19:15 Azimut

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Soccer Match

21:15 News in English

22:30 Second Half of Match

23:15 Movie of the week: "Chances of a Life"

PRAYER TIMES

04:01 Fajr

05:31 (Sunrise) Duha

12:53 Dhuhur

16:13 'Asr

19:35 Maghrib

21:03 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifish Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632765

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Torrens Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 626543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Egidius Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 623824 and 649322

Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

Min./max. temp.

Amman 14 / 28

Aqaba 22 / 36

Deirata 12 / 31

Jordan Valley 19 / 34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Bahjat Bader 849362

Dr. Ahmad Yousef 786394

Dr. Saad Al 786225

Dr. Walid Al Masi 675483

Fata pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asena pharmacy 637055

Nargol pharmacy 626712

Al Salem pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shuailan pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 847632

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Response 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 611111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661776

Water and Sewerage 897467

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (Directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 985417

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Sharara (-)

Al Quds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Mufid Datura (-)

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

COMPANY:

RJ Flight Information 633681

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Al-Haram Medical Centre 813613/32

Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn. 642811/6

Al-Khalifeh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palatine, Shuailan 664171/4

Shuailan Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845445

Al-Mustashir Hospital 667277/9

The Islamic, Abdull 666127/37

Al-Ahli, Abdull 664164/6

Infanta, Al-Mubajeen 771013

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26

Army, Marha 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775

Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)3320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

06:15 New Delhi (RJ)

06:45 New Delhi (RJ)

07:15 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)

07:45 Riyadh (RJ)

08:15 Colombo (RJ)

08:45 Beirut (RJ)

09:15 Beirut (RJ)

09:45 Larnaca, Vienna (OS)

10:15 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)

10:45 Riyadh (RJ)

11:15 Damascus, Dubai (EM)

11:45 Cairo (MS)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)

14:00 Riyadh (RJ)

16:45 Rome (AZ)

21:00 Dubai (EM)

21:45 Cairo (MS)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:15 Beirut (RJ)

07:45 Rome (RJ)

12:00 Larnaca, Athens (RJ)

12:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)

13:15 Muscat, New York (RJ)

13:45 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)

14:00 London (RJ)

14:15 Jeddah (RJ)

14:30 Damascus (RJ)

14:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

15:15 Dubai, Moscow (RJ)

15:45 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:25 Damascus, Paris (AF)

07:45 Larnaca (CY)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700 / 700

Banana 600 / 600

Banana (Mukammal) 620 / 620

Beans 500 / 450

Cabbage 70 / 40

Carrot 120 / 90

Cauliflower 250 / 180

Cucumber (large) 120 / 100

Cucumber (small) 200 / 150

Green bean 300 / 200

Grapefruit 260 / 200

Lemon 240 / 180

Marrow (large) 580 / 500

Marrow (small) 150 / 100

Onion (dry) 200 / 160

Onion (green) 260 / 180

Orange 450 / 350

Pepper (hot) 450 / 350

Pepper (sweet) 200 / 150

Potato 210 / 160

Spinach 520 / 300

Tomato 250 / 200

18:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

18:45 London, Amsterdam (RJ)

19:00 Abu Dhabi (RJ)

19:30 London, Berlin (RJ)

20:00 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)

20:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)

20:45 Athens, Larnaca (RJ)

21:10 Rome (RJ)

09:15 Beirut (RJ)

12:15 Larnaca, Vienna (OS)

14:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)

15:30 Riyadh (RJ)

17:45 Damascus, Dubai (EM)

21:50 Cairo (MS)

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

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Lemon 240 / 180

Marrow (large) 580 / 500

Marrow (small) 150 / 100

Onion (dry) 200 / 160

Onion (green) 260 / 180

Orange 450 / 350

Pepper (hot) 450 / 350

Pepper (sweet) 200 / 150

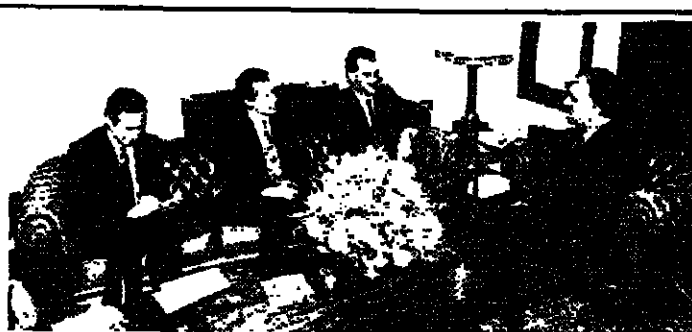
Potato 210 / 160

Spinach 520 / 300

Tomato 250 / 200



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday received separately at the Royal Court the visiting Swiss Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Jakob Kellenberger (left photo) and Under Secretary of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry Andrash Kaldman.



Kaldman, The Crown Prince reviewed Jordan's ties with their countries and underlined the importance of the human rights conference due to be held in Vienna next month.

Jordan asks Switzerland to hike funds to UNRWA

AMMAN (J.T.) — In pursuit of efforts to help the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) raise additional funds for its services, Jordan Wednesday urged Switzerland to increase its financial support as one of the main donors to the agency.

The call was made by Adel Irshaid, director of the Foreign Ministry's Palestinian Affairs Department, at a meeting here with Jakob Kellenberger, the Swiss Foreign Ministry's under secretary.

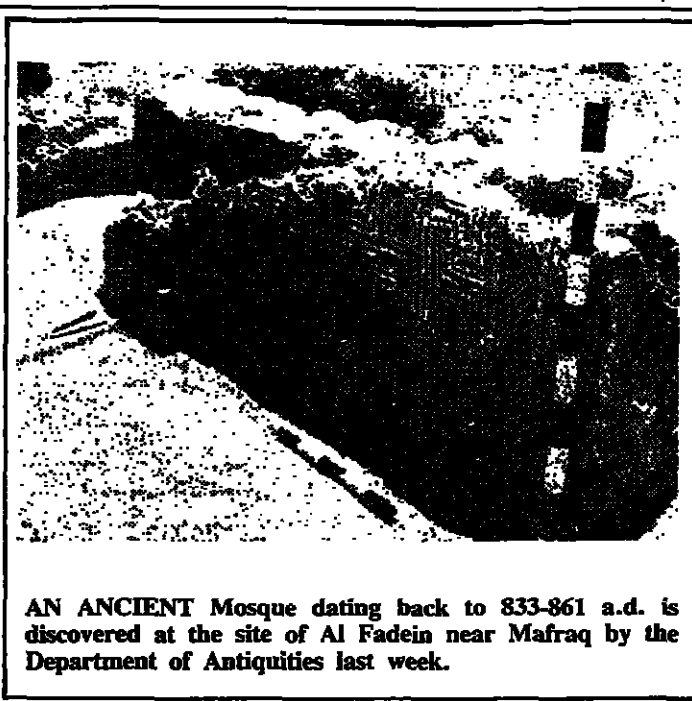
Nothing that the agency has a reported deficit of \$28.5 million, Mr. Irshaid said Jordan was cooperating closely with UNRWA to help it deal with this problem, and the department of Palestinian affairs was also providing services to the Palestinian refugees living in Jordan.

Mr. Irshaid spoke about the difficult economic conditions of Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied territories, and urged Switzerland to help UNRWA cope with its growing burdens in its field of operations.

Earlier this month Mr. Irshaid attended an UNRWA donors meeting in Vienna where he urged the donor nations to increase their contributions to the agency.

Mr. Kellenberger earlier, met Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and exchanged with him views about the Mideast situation and the peace process.

The Swiss under secretary who arrived here Tuesday accompanied by two officials on a three-day visit, was scheduled to meet other Jordanian officials Thursday before departing for home.



AN ANCIENT Mosque dating back to 833-861 A.D. is discovered at the site of Al Fadein near Mafrag by the Department of Antiquities last week.

Hungary, Jordan review how to balance trade

AMMAN (Petra) — Andrash Kaldman, the visiting Hungarian Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Wednesday met Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour and proposed the signing of a Jordanian-Hungarian agreement designed to increase the volume of their exchanged trade.

Mr. Kaldman said his country was willing to contribute to Jordanian investment projects and was ready to participate in them and to increase bilateral cooperation in economic fields.

Dr. Ensour said Jordan wanted to sign an agreement with Hungary to prevent dual taxation by investors from either country, noting that Jordan offers all facilities and numerous privileges to foreign investors.

In reviewing Jordanian economic and trade cooperation over the past years, the two sides stressed their desire to overcome

obstacles impeding trade exchanges.

Dr. Ensour called for the convening of the joint Jordanian-Hungarian Economic Committee which has not met since the late 1970s, and said the committee was instrumental in stimulating trade and economic cooperation and in implementing any agreements in scientific, technical and cultural fields.

Noting that the Kingdom was continuing to purchase Hungarian goods, the minister said the military and the civil service consumer corporations in Jordan are well-stocked with consumer products made in Hungary.

In return, the minister said that Hungary ought to make its purchases of phosphate and potash from the Kingdom in order to adjust the balance of trade which is in favour of Hungary.

To increase trade exchanges,

the minister suggested that the two countries annually exchange worth \$50 million divided equally between them, and said the question of settling payment in hard currency can be arranged through the central banks of the two countries.

Mr. Kaldman reviewed the developments in his country in the past few years, noting that Hungary has now fully adopted the market economy and offers attractive facilities for foreign investments.

Mr. Kaldman said Hungary and Jordan ought to increase exchange of visiting businessmen, and he supported the idea of convening the joint economic committee meeting at the experts level as soon as possible.

Mr. Kaldman also met Wednesday with Adel Irshaid, head of the Foreign Ministry's Palestinian Affairs Department,

for a discussion on the general situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands.

Mr. Irshaid gave details about the deteriorating situation in the occupied lands.

The Hungarian official voiced his country's support for the implementation of United Nations resolutions concerning the Palestine question.

Hungary, Mr. Kaldman added, supported the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the ongoing Arab-Israeli peace process.

Mr. Irshaid called on Hungary to exert pressure on Israel to put an end to its repression against the Palestinians and implement the U.N. resolutions.

Also Wednesday Mr. Kaldman met with the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Abdul Latif Arabiyat.

Ramtha hospital starts work on annex

RAMTHA (Petra) — Work has started on the construction of an annex to the Ramtha government hospital which would house a pharmacy, a laboratory and X-ray and first aid units.

The announcement was made by Farouk Dibajeh, the hospital director, who said that work on the annex which will cost JD 277,000 is expected to be completed during 1993.

The hospital appreciated a five dunum plot to set up a separate wing for specialised clinics with a total area of 1,000 square metres, said Dr. Dibajeh.

The Ramtha hospital has 56 beds and offers various medical services, except neuro and urinary tract surgeries, and is operated by 22 specialists and physicians, in addition to nine first aid and emergency doctors, a full staff of nurses and administrators, added Dr. Dibajeh.

The expansion of the facilities, he said, was necessitated by the growing demand on medical services, noting that 7,540 clinical cases were handled by the hospital, including 1,500 surgeries and 2,000 deliveries during 1992.

Dr. Dibajeh said those calling at the out-patient clinics last year numbered an estimated 110,000 citizens. The expansion on the Ramtha hospital also coincided with the commencement of talks in Amman between the Ministry of Planning and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank on financing the construction of the King Abdullah Hospital in the Irbid region, at a cost of JD 80 million.

About 50 Islamists split from IAF

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Some 50 Islamists former members of the Islamic Action Front, the IAF, and independents intend to form a new Islamic party, but IAF leaders doubt that the endeavours of the new group will meet with any tangible success.

Prominent Islamist Ra'ef Nijem, who resigned from the IAF only days after it was established, said that his group, which would consist of "scholars" from different walks of life, intends to form a new party, even though "we are not rushing things."

"At the moment, we are only an alliance with new concepts," said Mr. Nijem, a former minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs. "We are aiming at establishing a party that would meet the people's aspirations and not a group that would impose its own agenda on party members," he said in an apparent reference to the rift that occurred in the ranks of the IAF, leading Mr. Nijem along with 16 other independents to resign, citing dissatisfaction with the result of the elections of its 120-member Shura council, on Dec. 25, 1992.

The resigning independents had strongly contested those results claiming that they were inconsistent with a previous agreement they had reached with the Muslim Brotherhood just before the elections.

According to Mr. Nijem, it was agreed between the Muslim Brotherhood and the independents that the latter would be guaranteed a 40 per cent share of the Shura council's seats.

In a statement published at the time, the independents charged that non-Brotherhood members who made it to the Shura council were too few to influence decision-making in the party.

The statement carried the signatures of 16 members, most of whom were former ministers, including two

serving ministers in the present government (Yusef Mubeideen, Minister of Justice and Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat, Minister of Rural and Municipal Affairs and the Environment).

IAF sources had contended that only nine members resigned. Three, they say, were not members of the founding committee and the membership of two serving ministers was "frozen" since they are still members in the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

According to those sources, four of those who resigned rejoined the front's ranks. Mr. Nijem said, however, that only one of the four, Zuhair Abul Ragheb, was offered a seat on the executive council and accepted.

"The IAF is continuing to convince others to rejoin them," Mr. Nijem added.

According to Mr. Nijem, the Muslim Brotherhood members in the IAF had been working secretly, before the Shura council elections, and taking decisions privately without consulting the independents.

He claimed that they had agreed among themselves who would be elected to the council.

The representatives of other Islamic movements, such as the Islamic Liberation Party, who attended the first IAF general assembly, did not participate in later meetings of the front "which further proves that they were not aiming at grouping all Islamic movements under one wing," according to Mr. Nijem.

Saying that his party includes independents and Sunnis in addition to Muslim brothers the IAF secretary general, Ishaq Farhan, said that the Islamic Liberation Party did not join because "it does not believe in democracy in the first place." He said one member of the Liberation Party had attended the general assembly meeting as an observer only.

The Islamic Liberation Party, formed in 1940 by Taqi Eddin Al

Nabahani, a Palestinian from Tul-karem, advocates an Islamic state headed by a Caliph.

So far, the party has not applied for a license to operate legally in Jordan. Mr. Nijem said he and his colleagues are meeting other independents from various fields and different professions (professors, engineers, merchants from different regions in Jordan) to draw up policy guidelines for the new party.

Nearly 50 at present, the independents aim to form an Islamic group with progressive thinking that would meet the people's needs, aspirations and ambitions, Mr. Nijem said.

The party must adopt pragmatic solutions to people's daily problems and concerns and not "limit itself, as most parties do, to hefty slogans," he maintained.

"Arab unity, unemployment, imperialism and Zionism have hit the slogans of all parties and deputies... But these slogans do not address people's interests any more; nor do they generate a sense of credibility," Mr. Nijem said. "Parties should work towards practical solutions to current problems."

Poverty, he said, can be solved by imposing a Zakat law, "since the poor man in the street cannot engage in democracy while he is unemployed and hardly able to afford his daily bread," he said.

Dr. Farhan, on the other hand, cast doubts on the success of the group and contended that it did not possess the "organisational abilities" to form a viable party.

Noting that the IAF is the most powerful Islamic group in the country and probably the most organised among all parties, he also used the occasion to criticise another new-formed Islamic party, Du'aa, which includes Christians among its members and was licensed last month, has not produced any substantial studies that reflect a concrete ideology on its part, he said.

A congregation without a church

By Jennifer Hamarneh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Today the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan is planning to "rededicate" its church, but original members of its congregation are angry. "Why is there a need to rededicate the church?" asked one member. "Are we heathens, did the years of hard work and effort of our pastor in building the church and the centre account for nothing?"

The member was referring to Pastor Numan Smeir, who was forced into "early retirement" by a unilateral decision taken by the Lutheran Bishop of Jerusalem, Naim Nassar.

Bishop Nassar, who arrived in Amman Saturday told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that he wishes to rededicate the Lutheran Church had to install its new pastor.

Efforts on the part of Pastor Smeir, his congregation and friends to have him reinstated have come up empty. Today, the congregation considers itself "without church."

Numan Smeir came to Amman from the West Bank in August 1979 with his family, three suitcases and a strong spiritual determination to establish a Lutheran congregation in Jordan. Pastor Smeir did just that, claim the church's members. As they tell him the beginning his mission, assigned to him by the former Lutheran Bishop of Jerusalem, Daoud Haddad, with seven families and by 1990, 90 families had joined the Church of the Good Shepherd located off Mecca Street in West Amman.

Just as the pastor, his family and his congregation were beginning to enjoy and rejoice in the fruits of their decade of labour, congregation members maintain, the rug was pulled

from under them.

Fadi Eid, a member of the Good Shepherd Church, told the Jordan Times that in June 1991, Bishop Nassar informed Pastor Smeir, with no prior notice and no explanation or legal justification, that he was being relieved of his mission as pastor and sent into early retirement.

Mr. Eid explained that unlike the Catholic or Orthodox churches, where authority lies with the bishops, the Lutheran Church has a representative council of seven church members who are elected by yet another representative body known as the Synod. The Synod is made up of 20 members comprising the church pastor and members of the church elected by the congregation. These two bodies are the decision-making arms of the Lutheran Church and should be consulted in matters such as the retirement of church officials.

But Mr. Eid said, the decision to retire Pastor Smeir was not taken by the council. "Bishop Nassar took the decision unilaterally,"

"The council was bypassed and the Amman congregation, which has elected representatives on the Synod, was excluded from the activities of the council, which is illegal according to the constitution of the church."

"In the early days," congregation members told the Jordan Times, "we used to gather here in Lamis Salfity's home, before we had a church. Here we are again in Lamis' home, without a church."

Mrs. Salfity, a mother of six children and described by her friends as a devoted church member, explained that according to the church constitution, the mandatory retirement age for a Lutheran pastor is 65. "Pastor Smeir was 59 when he was kicked out

and replaced by a retired pastor of over 65 years of age," said Mrs. Salfity. "I fail to see the logic or legality in Bishop Nassar's decision."

Congregation members said they wrote letters to Bishop Nassar and to the council members. They said Pastor Smeir wrote to the bishop, who replied that his appeal was a waste of time and if the pastor intended to pursue the case he should do so through the church attorney.

As the situation brewed, according to the church members, the late governor of Jerusalem, Anwar Al Khatib was dragged into the affair by Bishop Nassar who, they said, accused Pastor Smeir of attempting to create a split between the congregation in the East Bank and the mother church in Jerusalem. The congregation members who spoke to the Jordan Times agreed that Bishop Nassar was capitalising on what they termed a sensitive political issue.

In the end, Governor Khatib concluded that these allegations were no more than fabrications, said Mr. Eid. "But, the congregation believes that Bishop Nassar 'turned a congregation problem into a political problem,' by soliciting the government's involvement. They do not blame the government per se, but feel that Bishop Nassar took advantage of the sensitivities of the time and was able to 'convince the prime minister to allow him (Nassar) to execute the decision' to dismiss Pastor Smeir."

Amman Governor Issa Al Omari told the Jordan Times that indeed the case was a "sensitive one," but declined to comment further in a telephone interview.

On November 27, 1992, Pastor Smeir, his wife and two sons were forced to vacate their home adjacent

to the church. The salary of the pastor was stopped in September 1991 to date. On the eve of the "rededication" of the church, Bishop Nassar informed Pastor Smeir that he would be receiving a pension.

The congregation claims that all its attempts to discuss the issue with either Bishop Nassar or the newly installed pastor, Bishara Zabaneh, have been ignored. Bishop Nassar was unavailable for comment.

The Good Shepherd Church and Centre, which was primarily built through funding from the Evangelical Lutheran Missions in Finland and Sweden and a small part from the Evangelical United Church in Germany, cost about JD 500,000 to complete. Today it is estimated to be worth about JD 2 million.

A hovering fear of its original members is that the church will one day fall under the auspices of the Anglican Church as happened to the Schneller church in Russia. They fear, they maintain, does not stem from sectarian rivalries but from a sense of abandonment and isolationism.

The bells that are to be hung today at the "rededication" ceremony of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd were a gift to Pastor Smeir from the Evangelical United Church of Germany. That they are to be hung by his replacement in a ceremony termed a "rededication" with nearly none of the original congregation members present is a tragedy, say congregation members. As they ponder their dilemma in Mrs. Salfity's home over juice, biscuits and coffee, one church elder, Eid Al Nimri remarks: "God will not forget us, and he will reveal the facts as they are."

Some members litigate JBA election procedures

Observers say suit may be politically motivated

By Sausan Ghosheh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A significant number of lawyers are litigating the procedures of the Jordanian Bar Association's (JBA) elections held in March. Some JBA insiders and observers believe this lawsuit may be the consequence of political differences and disagreements.

Two groups of 36 lawyers each, submitted an official complaint to the Higher Court of Justice; the first group challenged the procedure in which the president of the association was elected and the second contested what it claims to be an illegal violation in the election process of the president and the council.

The first group, represented by Salim Suweis, lost its case Saturday without the chance to discuss it in court. "The case was dismissed on procedural grounds and the issue was not addressed," said Mr. Suweis.

The court explained that the case was invalid since it was only filed against the former council whose term had ended, thus no procedures can be taken against it.

The second group, represented by Mohammad Subeichi, noticed the shortcomings of Mr. Suweis's case.

Fifteen days after the elections, the group contested the former as well as the current council, since, it maintained, the current council won as a result of the "illegal procedures" taken during the elections.

Mr. Suweis based his case on what he saw as illegal violations occurring in the second round of elections in which the president of the association, Kamal Nassar, was elected.

The first round of elections for president included 8 candidates,

three of whom succeeded to the second round. But Mr. Suweis, along with those he represents, believes that the second round, according to the law should be held between only two contestants, winning the highest number of votes and thus excluding Mr. Nassar who ranked third in the first round.

It is only through this process, he explained, that it can be guaranteed that "the president represents the majority of the general committees."

Historically, Arab nationalists have been the stronger force in the JBA.

The fact that Mr. Suweis, an Arab nationalist, only contested the election of Mr. Nassar, who is known among JBA members as a Fateh supporter, has led some observers to believe that this lawsuit is politically motivated.

The charge was immediately denied by Mr. Suweis, who said "Fateh is not an enemy of the pan-Arab movement... and (Mr. Nassar) is not distant from Arab nationalists."

Mr. Subeichi, who did not want his case to have a personal character, contested the legitimacy of the president as well as the council.

He based his argument on five points, the first four of which were also used by Mr. Suweis in his case.

First, Mr. Subeichi said the meeting of the general committee lacked a quorum at ten o'clock, the time the meeting was to begin.

Second, he said, only one of the four election monitoring committees included a representative of the Minister of Justice. Legally each committee should include a ministry representative, he explained.

Third, Mr. Subeichi said, the invitation for attending the gener-

al committee meeting was advertised in the Arabic Press. Legally the old council is required to send a letter informing every member in the association to attend.

Fourth, he added, secrecy was not insured during the elections, and there were people in the room who were attempting to influence the voters' decisions.

In addition, he said the monitoring committee was not careful to check every voter's identity, thus, some people voted, who legally should not have.

Fifth, Mr. Subeichi said, 130 lawyers from the West Bank participated in the association's elections. This act, according to Mr. Subeichi, is against the law, which no longer considers West Bank residents to be Jordanian citizens, due to the severing of administrative ties in 1988.

He added that the participation of the West Bank lawyers was significant in determining the result, since Mr. Nassar was only ahead of Marwan Al Hassan, the first runner-up, by ten votes.

In addition, Mr. Subeichi said, it was Fateh who invited the West Bank lawyers to attend the general meeting and paid for their stay in Jordan.

He also claimed that the lawyers who came from the West Bank were only Fateh supporters and thus came to vote for their candidate. "Most of the lawyers are contesting the elections due to Fateh's indirect interference in the election," Mr. Subeichi maintained.

Mr. Suweis refused to use Mr. Subeichi's fifth argument in his case, explaining that "I am an Arab nationalist... I am against the severing of ties with the West Bank... thus I do not contest the legitimacy of the participation of the West Bank lawyers."

Bank lawyers should be able to vote in the association's elections because they have not stopped paying their annual dues.

Mazen Irshaidat, a member of the current lawyers' council, stressed that there were no legal violations in the procedure of the elections.

He added that the West Bank lawyers have the right to vote because they are registered members and because Arab lawyers can constitutionally join the association.

Mr. Irshaidat emphasised that Fateh did not interfere in any form in the association's elections. He said that he received assurances from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat that they will not try to influence the results of the elections in any way.

Since Mr. Nassar is seen as a Fateh member by his JBA associates, and the majority of those contesting the results of the election along with Mr. Subeichi are East Bankers, some lawyers fear that this will be seen as a strain in the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, said Mohammad Manajrah, a lawyer who withdrew his challenge of the elections.

Mr. Subeichi said that 11 of the 36 lawyers who originally chose to join him in contesting the elections found themselves having to withdraw their names because of personal and professional pressures. Mr. Manajrah, one of the eleven lawyers, said tribal contacts and affiliations were used so that he would withdraw his name from the case.

He withdrew explaining that "no matter how much we try to become a low-governed society, tribal affiliations still play a major role in our life."

Other lawyers were forced to withdraw their names from the case as a result of pressures at

work, Mr. Manajrah added.

"But, 'if I am asked to appear in court, I will testify that there were violations in the elections,'" he said.

Mr. Manajrah and Mr. Suweis emphasised that those who are pressuring the lawyers to withdraw are not only afraid of a Palestinian-Jordanian split, but also fear losing their seats on the association's council.

In addition, they both agree that Fateh is not the force behind these pressures.

Mr. Irshaidat admitted that discussions took place with some of the lawyers who decided to challenge the election results, but he said that no force was used.

In addition he accused those who wish to change the results of the elections of collecting names of lawyers without telling them their real objective.

Tayseer Ghazawi, a JBA member, confirmed that he was a victim of this manipulation.

Mr. Subeichi said the association's council is attempting to stall the case in court by requesting to question 130 witnesses.

But, he believes the court will not grant the request and will be satisfied with the legal arguments.

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WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition by Young Muslim Women's Society at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Fragments: Weavings and Works on Paper" by Kevin A. Hluch and Margaret M. Hluch at the American Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Soha Katibah Noursi at the Spanish Cultural.
- ★ Art exhibition of works by artists from Jordan, Iraq and Morocco at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Patrice Pain at the French Cultural Centre.

FILM

- ★ 1975 film entitled "Dog Day Afternoon" at 6 p.m. at the American Centre (130 minutes)

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Road to backfire

AT A time when the Kuwait government is ruling out any normalisation of relations with Iraq as long as Saddam Hussein remains in power, the speaker of the Kuwaiti parliament, Ahmad Al Saadoun, is sending clear signals to the current Iranian regime that it seeks more than friendly relations with Tehran. Kuwaiti Information Minister Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Sabah said this stance stems from the belief that the Iraqi president "is a menace, a threat, not just to Kuwait but to all the Gulf countries."

Saadoun, a long-time rival of the Sabah regime, also ruled out any contacts with Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Sudan and Yemen.

Kuwait's overtures to Iran have coincided with the start of a Gulf tour by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, who will also be going to Kuwait next week. By clearly staking out a claim to better relations with Iran and at the same time abandoning any hope of restoring normal relations with sister Arab states, Kuwait sounds profoundly confused about what its priorities should be.

But while it is perfectly understandable for Kuwait not to easily forgive and forget Iraq's invasion and occupation in 1990, the Sabah regime has nonetheless to be wary of pinning hopes on non-Arab countries for protecting its state and safeguarding its legitimate concerns. Kuwait is an Arab state and will remain so no matter how much its leaders have depended or continue to depend on foreign powers for its security. The language of relying on foreign governments to defend any country is one that belongs to the colonial era when imperialist powers concocted all sorts of excuses and even fabricated armed conflicts for the sole reason of justifying the continuation of their hegemony.

Last week, we heard that Kuwait is thinking in terms of constructing ditches on its northern border to protect itself from Iraq. Now we hear that Kuwait looks to Iran for implicit protection. This is over and above the formal security arrangements Kuwait has concluded with several Western powers and the dispensation of billions of dollars on arms purchases that stand to prop up the slackening Western economies. We believe that Kuwait's long range interest and security lies squarely in a dramatically improved Arab climate. For Kuwait to shun every sincere effort to restore fraternal relations in the Arab World is a mistake that could easily backfire.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR bitterly criticised the U.S. administration, expressing regret over its continued bias towards Israel during and before the ninth round of the Arab-Israeli negotiations. Although we realise the deep relationship binding the U.S. and Israel, we expect the Clinton administration to show fair dealings during the peace talks so as to enable the two sides to achieve some progress, said the paper. "The U.S. ought to have played a fair role and should have dissipated lingering suspicions about its intentions. We had hoped to see Washington playing the role of full partner, as it had promised us, in order to end the conflict, added the paper. Now that we have discovered the truth about the U.S. and its deceptions, we can no longer trust any U.S. pledges about peace in the future, stressed the paper. Neither can we feel optimism over any U.S. role in the future sessions in light of Washington's continued bias and lack of integrity and honesty in dealings with the Arabs and the Israelis, added the paper. Washington's conspiracy in trying to peddle what it called its own principles for an Israeli-Palestinian plan of action should open our eyes wide, warned the paper. It said the Arabs ought to reappraise their attitude towards the U.S. under the Clinton administration because it is showing more bias towards Israel than any of those displayed by the previous administrations.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily lauded the government's decision to collect unlicensed weapons, noting that the step was necessary to ensure security for the public. Salameh Ekour said Jordanian citizens welcomed the collection of fire arms because this will provide more security for their children and families, enhance stability and prevent accidents that have been causing tragedies. The government realises that some political organisations possess firearms, but it hopes that these too will be collected and leave the matter of ensuring security to the police, said the writer. It is our right to demand that the government ensure security and safety for everyone and the only way to help it to do that is through handing over firearms and ridding the country of the means that create tragedies, the writer continued. He said that it is also the right of the government to expect cooperation on the part of the people and various political groups so that it can offer a guaranteed service to the public. The proliferation of unlicensed firearms in any society constitutes a source of danger to its members and can shake its security, the writer added. He demanded that the government impose strict penalties on those elements who defy the law and continue to endanger the Jordanian society.

In power 40 years, King Hussein strives for a democratic Jordan

The monarch has placated his political opponents through inclusion

The following article by Sana Atiyeh appeared in the Christian Science Monitor issue of May 4, 1993, under the same headline.

AT THE 40th anniversary of his rule, King Hussein of Jordan is building the foundations of a modern Arab society and attempting to unite a traditional Islamic identity with democratic freedoms.

If successful, Jordan's experiment could prove a model of stability for the Arab World at a time of rising Islamic activism and popular discontent with economic decline and government corruption throughout the region.

But the longest-reigning Arab leader acknowledges publicly that time is short. He hopes to build a democratic system that would survive threats from anti-reformists long after his rule.

"King Hussein is racing with time in building democratic and civil institutions to turn Jordan into a modern state," says Munir Razzaz, head of the newly formed leftist Jordanian Arab Democratic Party (JADP). "And if there are threats to the democracy in the future, there will be safety valves to protect it."

Those safety valves — written into Jordan's National Charter since riots in 1989 prompted a process of democratisation — include legalised freedoms of ex-

pression and press, free elections and popular participation in government, and legalised opposition parties and labour unions.

Jordan celebrated the 40th anniversary of King Hussein's assumption of constitutional powers May 2 with a colourful, two-hour military parade. Large banners in the background read: "Forty years with Hussein on the road to freedom, democracy, and development."

King Hussein was only 18 when he inherited the Hashemite throne that his father, King Talal, abdicated for medical reasons. The young Hussein also inherited a country lacking resources and surrounded by political turmoil. During the past four decades,

King Hussein has survived several assassination attempts and aborted coups. After his regime was threatened by leftists in 1957, he cracked down on and banned all political parties, with the exception of the Muslim Brotherhood, a moderate Islamic political party. He strengthened his security apparatus to protect the throne and politically neutralised them by banning them from political activity.

When the April 1989 riots broke out in the south of the country, protesting economic and political conditions, King Hussein announced free parliamentary elections in November of that year. The Muslim Brotherhood

won the largest single bloc, and now more than 12 political parties have been licensed ahead of parliamentary elections due in November.

The King's democratisation policy, political analysts say, has contained his one-time communist and leftist enemies, as well as the potential rise of Muslim extremism.

The Muslim Brotherhood has been included in the three governments formed since the 1989 elections, averting the kind of confrontations seen in Egypt and Algeria.

"We can ignore neither the Muslim Brotherhood nor others and they all have to be included in the political system of the country," says Ibrahim Izziddine, minister of prime ministerial affairs.

Besides winning over the Jordanian left and right, King Hussein has also succeeded in mustering support from the large Palestinian population in the Kingdom. Since his administrative and legal disengagement from the West Bank in 1988, which was under Jordanian rule when Israel occupied it in 1967, King Hussein has insisted that Jordan would support any decisions taken by the Palestine Liberation Organisation, especially

regarding the Middle East peace talks.

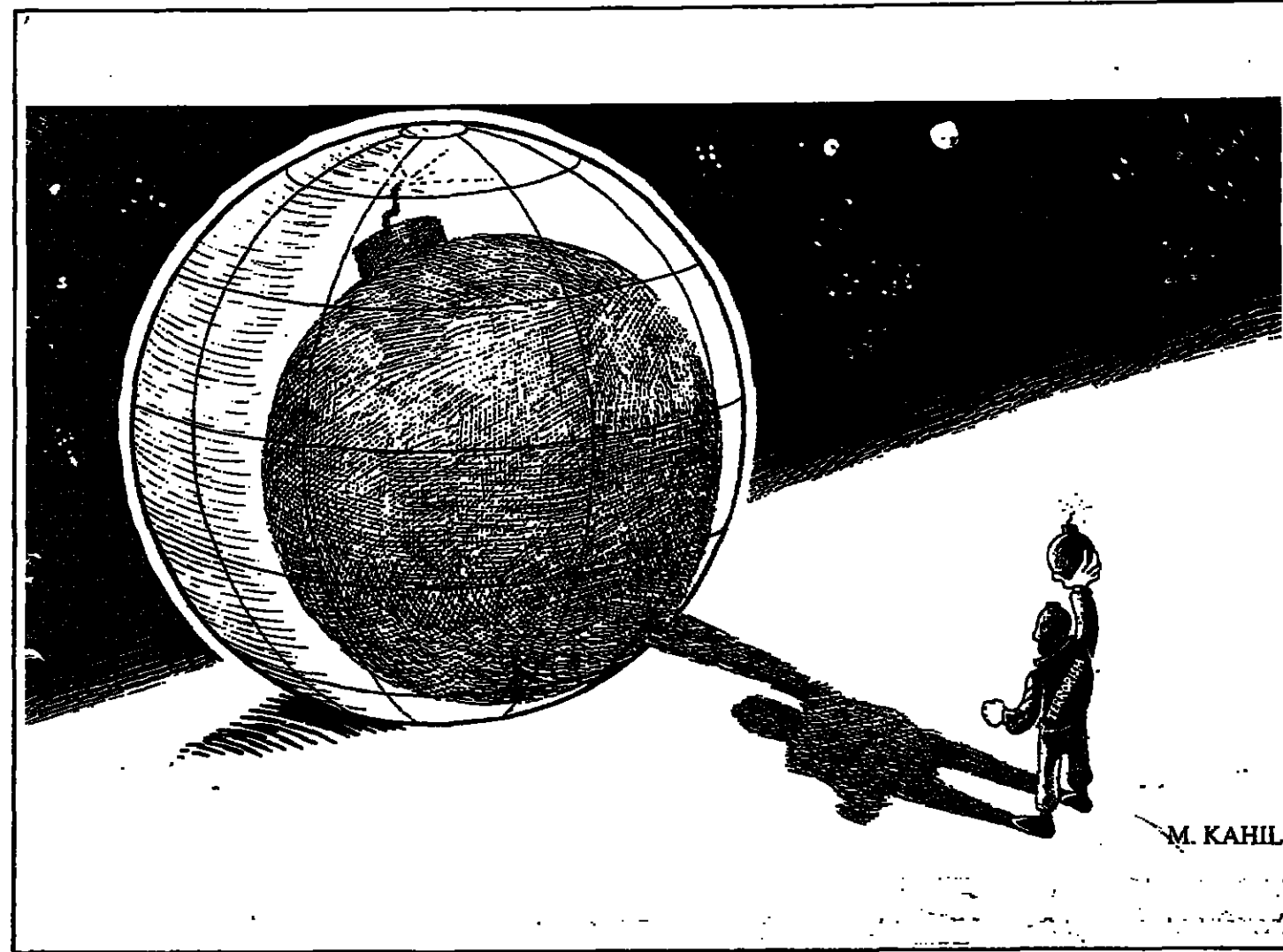
And unlike other Arab countries, Palestinians in Jordan, many of whom carry Jordanian citizenship, have enjoyed the same rights as native Jordanians.

King Hussein's popularity at home also has spread to other Arab states. On the eve of the anniversary celebrations, he attended a concert where a famous Tunisian singer, Saida Sadeq, sang the words of a prominent Iraqi poet, Mohammed Jawaheri, composed and conducted by Egyptian Jamel Salameh. The song was written especially for the King.

Mr. Razzaz, the JADP leader, says King Hussein believes he has a "Hashemite mission towards achieving a European-style Arab unity through democracy, pluralism, and respect for human rights."

"He hopes to become a symbol in the Arab World by building a democratic model in Jordan," Mr. Razzaz says.

"I don't have any doubts that democracy is a national trend that is fully supported by Prince Hassan," Mr. Izziddine says of King Hussein's brother, the heir apparent. "But it is difficult to replace such a great leader as King Hussein."



The case for democracy — a special one when it comes to Saudi Arabia

Fundamental difficulties

By Kathy Evans

IN WESTERN eyes, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia appears the most repressive and closed country on earth. Its doors are literally bolted not just to journalists but to single foreign women, Jews, Palestinians and any people or influences which might jar the 7th century concepts which form the basis of its laws. Germaine Greer once called it the Nazi kingdom of male chauvinism.

The closed doors and the social laws are deemed necessary, for as the motherland of Islam, Saudi Arabia has a unique responsibility towards the Muslim World. This is a country whose very soil is considered sacred. To a billion Muslims, Saudi Arabia sets the religious standard and the state's Islamic credentials were — and had to be — beyond reproach. It is a responsibility recognised by even the most liberal, whisky-drinking Saudis. They know that the deal — and Islamic law — is that to breathe freely, you stay in the confines of your own home — or you leave the country.

Yet last week, the Saudi family, the guardians of Islam, the keepers of the two holy cities, found itself being stalked by the same phenomena which threatens many other governments in the Middle East, the spectre of Islamic radicalism.

The siren call comes from a scrubby rural town called Qasim, in the heartland of the Nejd Desert. Qasim has become the centre for opposition clerics known as Qom was for Khomeini's acolytes in the early 1970s. But the radicals of Saudi Arabia make the turbaned men of Tehran look like pragmatic, pro-Western liberals.

Saudi liberals fear the worst, for the message of their home-grown radicals sets new levels in extremism. "We have the most religious state on earth, what more do they want?" they ask.

The radical message is being voiced by a young generation of preachers and religious students who have never known anything else but the oil wealth. For them, the official clergy is but a collection of geriatric government stooges.

These new radical products are pouring forth in their tens of thousands each year from the

Islamic universities and religious schools that the Saudi family set up to underline its Islamic credentials and benevolence towards its people. Poor families in Saudi Arabia received financial incentives to send their children to religious schools rather than state institutions. The result is millions of young men untrained in the skills that modern Saudi society needs. Unemployable, and unversed in anything but the Koran, they cluster around the mosques and the new generation of preachers.

Like Khomeini and his mullahs who descended out of nowhere to be met by millions of supporters, the preachers of Saudi Arabia are unknown in the West, but their names are familiar to all Saudis. They include young radicals like Sheikh Salman Odeh, who is just in his thirties, Awad Al Garni who comes from the poor southern province of Asir, and Zafar Hawali, a young preacher in Mecca. Their message is relayed on audio cassettes sold in shops in every town in Saudi Arabia.

No pictures of these men exist — photographs are highly un-Islamic. Nor has any westerner met them — such men consider contact with infidel foreigners contaminating and defiling. Instead, their friends are in such places as Sudan, or among the militants of Egypt's Gamaat Islamiya, and the wild fanatics of Afghanistan.

Last week, some of their fellow clerics, known for their "moderate" views, set up the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights. The first such group to be formed in the country, it covers a broad spectrum of ideas, but they talked of human rights, democracy, the right of men — and women — to vote, of the need to end corruption in the royal family, and the strong ties with America. It was an agenda with which even westerners and Saudi liberals in the country could identify.

Saudi women remained unimpressed. After all, there is not much point in having the vote if you can't leave the house or have a normal job.

The lifestyles and pro-American policies of the family of 5,000 princes has made the house of Saud vulnerable to criticism. In

the Arab World, King Fahd, like Saudi monarchs before him, is viewed as America's man, doing America's business in the Middle East. That business includes funding anti-socialist religious movements, suppressing democracy and pushing reluctant Arabs into a peace process which offers nothing but further humiliation. The reaction from such policies doesn't bother the regime much because in the end Arab regimes and causes, regardless of their political colours, usually end up begging at their door for hand-outs.

At home, all say the Saudis must clean up their royal act. This is the country where princely commissions run into billions of dollars, corrupting not just the young princes but any western businessman, government official or arms salesman who comes to do business with the kingdom. The Saudis, after all, are the last big spenders in the recession-ridden world.

The king's indulgence towards his sons has angered the business community in the western province, Hijaz. Discontent is also rife among the generation of young educated Saudis who see little prospect in rising through the ranks of government. Hundreds of Al Sauds are sprinkled throughout the administration blocking their way to promotion.

For decades, the monarchs of Saudi Arabia have mistaken the liberals as their enemy. Today those liberals are now viewed by the religious groups as pillars of support for the house of Saud, and liberals fear that any weakening of the monarchy could pave the way for a clerical government the like of which has never been seen before.

Such a movement could set a new ideological standard for the entire Muslim World, outranking the influence and radicalism of Shiite Iran, and undermining liberal thinking Arabs throughout the Middle East. Its location in the holy land of Islam, combined with the oil money, would make it an unstoppable force.

Democracy — even the little bit promised by a long-awaited consultative council — subsequently looks dangerous to the liberals. A consultative council

could, if anything, lead to an increase in the zealots' power and even more repression.

The Saudi kings have always believed the way to stay in power was to play the zealots off against the liberals in the hope that they will weaken each other.

The result is a state which makes even its western allies shift in their seats with discomfort. In private, western diplomats express their distaste for the seamy sides of the Saudi family, but their governments remain preoccupied in selling military aircraft and other goodies to them. After all, thousands of jobs back home are at stake, and if the price is that a few liberal Saudis are upset, so what? So the kind of encouragement western governments have shown for democracy in Kuwait or Jordan was not given to the Saudis.

Saudi Arabia was always a special case, far too important, too rich, too strategic. There were all those oil reserves to consider, reserves which will be pumping oil long after other sources have gone dry. Moreover, the Saudis, like us, believed in cheap, steady oil prices to underpin those fragile green shoots showing now in some western economies. No, the priority for Saudi Arabia was stability at all cost, even if it meant propping up the house of Saud and that pack of spoil princes.

Such attitudes left western diplomats scrambling in 1979 to get to know the unknown bearded mullahs in Iran who came out of nowhere. The Americans have already shown they have learnt that lesson and have opened contacts with the more palatable representatives of the Saudi radicals. Foreign Office officials meanwhile fear that such contacts would send the wrong signals to the house of Saud. King Fahd has consequently been allowed, without comment by the West, to drag his feet on the long promised consultative assembly and the window of opportunity has now opened for the radicals. The Saudis have yet to learn the lesson understood by King Hussein of Jordan: That the only way to dilute their underground street power is a good dose of democracy — The Guardian.

LETTERS

Cardinal points

To the Editor:

Rami Khouri's recent remarks concerning his fear of standing up to western cultural imperialism paint a bleak, black and white scenario ("Techno-racism and the onion ring machines," Jordan Times, May 11, 1993). Were it so simple!

The "new world order" is a catch phrase that may contain a lot of rhetoric and wishful thinking from many different segments of many societies. Everyone has a right to their own opinion, especially in a democracy.

Perhaps a manifestation of that "new world order" is the process of democratisation that recently has been introduced to Jordan. Certainly the meaning of democracy will truly be tested here when writers such as Mr. Khouri will be encouraged to criticise their own society's faults (if there are any) as well as others.

It helps to look on the bright side... If it weren't for western imperialism the Hashemite Kingdom might not have been located in Jordan. Please do not feel bad about this. One has only to remember that once upon a time even the United States was a colony of Great Britain.

Concerning imperialism in general, historically, there has been plenty of that to go around from various regimes of the North, South, East and West. Jordan, for example, takes pride in its imperial Roman ruins.

If you wonder about the preservation of western comfort, all you have to do is look a little south and wonder about "retaining incumbency, wielding power and feeling good." At least Pakistan now has troops in Somalia. It is too bad that was not an Arab initiated endeavour instead of an American one. Perhaps the people of the "southeast" lost their vision on that one. And I do not see unilateral military commitments from Arab countries in Bosnia either. Perhaps it is time.

I hope that a word processing computer was not the vehicle for Mr. Khouri's copyrighted mental meanderings. That would appear somewhat hypocritical. (I also hope his western style copyright is more effective here than the copyright of western music and entertainment products. But it is nice to see Mr. Khouri likes at least one western idea).

One question: What is an onion ring machine? I have never seen or heard of one. By the way, we enjoy shish kebabs as well as onion rings in America. Certainly falafel sandwiches cannot be far behind. I hope so, they are delicious!

Kevin A. Hluch,
Visiting Lecturer,
Yarmouk University,
Irbid.

The need to know more

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the staff of the Jordan Times for their efforts in producing such a good newspaper.

I would also like to make a suggestion, as a Jordanian and as a member of the "Friends of Archaeology" in Amman.

In time I have come to know quite a lot about this beautiful country of ours and to the realisation of its great history.

It is nice to know that people are becoming more and more aware of the importance of archaeological excavations and their amazing findings, which tell us more and more of our history.

What I would like to suggest is for the Jordan Times, to have, every now and then, articles on archaeological researches, with figures, facts and photographs presented in such a way that everybody can understand. By that I mean articles written by people who are not familiar with archaeological terms, who could make people interested and more aware of what's going on. It would be interesting to have archaeologists, both Jordanians and non-Jordanians, talk to those interested, through the newspaper.

It would also be interesting to have articles about places in the country which do not necessarily have archaeological significance, but are not very well known to the public and could be a great place to spend a Friday.

I mean sites like Umm Al Jimal, Dana, the desert castles, Azraq, Umm Qais and many others.

I read the Jordan Times articles about Dana and I enjoyed them very much. Now Dana is a familiar name to people because it was talked about on television, and there were articles about it in several papers. Now Dana has the "Friends of Dana" which I think is a great idea.

We have a beautiful country. Its people need to enjoy its beauty and preserve it so that the coming generations learn to appreciate it as well.

Rana Sami Naber,
P.O. Box 830746,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Arab intellectuals' apathy: Moral blindness or schizophrenia

Martin Woolcott
The Guardian

When we try to cope in our minds with the wars that have broken out in the last few years, we perform, usually unconsciously, an act of triangulation. We measure them by reference to three great markers — the fratricide of World War I, the genocide of World War II and the suicide of a nuclear World War III would have constituted.

It is a comparison which normally reassures. After all, nothing has been remotely as bad or on as huge a scale as those conflicts, two burned into our memory and one burned into our imagination. Only the Iran-Iraq war, which may have approached the levels of slaughter of 1914-18, seems an exception. What is going on in Yugoslavia now, for instance, while dreadful, is not genocide. Ethnic cleansing is not genocide: the intention is to move the unwanted people, not to murder them, and even though some murders are part of the terror that provokes flight, they are a means, not an end. It is possible to end up with the conclusion that while human beings are still evil bastards, they are not quite as evil as they used to be.

But there is an argument that, despite the fact that we have avoided nuclear war and true genocide in recent years, things are getting worse. It is worth weighing. Such thoughts come to mind, for instance, after reading Kanan Makiya's book on the growth of moral blindness in the Arab World. Makiya, previously writing under the pseudonym Samir Al Khalil, wrote an expose of Saddam Hussein's Iraq called *Republic of Fear*, and his new title, *Cruelty and Silence*, is as harshly accurate as his first. In this second book he examines such refinements of evil by the Iraqi regime as the political use of rape and the dishonouring of women, as well as the development of its Kurdish policy from one of coercive resettlement to the near complete destruction of Kurdish rural society.

That is the cruelty. The silence is not that of Iraqis in Iraq, which is understandable. It is that of Arab intel-

lectuals in other, safer, societies who, instead of recognising that their first duty was to condemn what was happening in Iraq, mainly chose instead to offer convoluted and abstract arguments about Saddam's "meaning" in Arab history. Although *Cruelty and Silence* is a passionate sketch rather than a systematic study, it suggests persuasively that there is a connection between the decline in personal moral standards, particularly those of intellectuals, and the increasingly vicious use of force by some governments, a use that does begin to lead us back towards genocide.

Why cannot most Arab intellectuals see that Saddam's treatment of the Kurds, for instance, was and is a grave crime? Why has Makiya been accused by some Iraqi Shiites of neglecting their cause because he took up that of the Kurds? Why cannot Palestinians see any parallel between their case and that of the Kurds of Iraq, or even, which is true, that in some ways the Kurds have been treated worse than they have? We could pursue this Middle Eastern chain further than Makiya does. Why can-

not the Kurds, of Turkey rather than Iraq, even remember the role they played in the massacres of the Armenians, that model for later horrors? And why cannot the Israelis admit, at least with any regularity, to fellow feeling for the Armenians? Michael Arlen, in his book of self-discovery about the land of his origins, *Passage to Ararat*, wrote that Jews and Armenians seem "like two insecure strangers trying to narrate two similar nightmares in an inattentive room". (It must be added that Jews have been foremost in calling for action to halt racial terror in Yugoslavia.)

Arlen uses an oddly similar phrase to Makiya in describing the killing of the Armenians: "What loneliness and silence". We face here a strange phenomenon, the not infrequent refusal of the victim to acknowledge the fact that there are other victims, and that he and they belong in a community of victims.

At bottom, it means that the victimised come to share the philosophy of the oppressor, which is that, among the peoples, there are winners and losers and that the key

thing is not justice but survival — the survival of the fittest. Thus the objective of an oppressed people comes to be to join the winners rather than to be permanently relegated to the ranks of the losers. This Darwinian view certainly underlies some Arab attitudes, and helps explain why, across the Arab World, Saddam was elevated into a hero whose brutality was to be redeemed by his success.

In the Balkans now can be seen a terrible tangle of these victim complexes. The Serbs, the Croats and the Muslims all picture themselves as victims; and in their concentration on their own victimhood can recognise no parallel between their case and that of the others. They all have some, if not equal, reason for doing so.

Both Serbs and Croats see themselves as having almost lost their place in modern Europe by a combination of ill luck and the ill will of others. Dobrica Cosic, the Yugoslav president, for instance, genuinely believes that the Serbian nation is in peril of its life. It will be penetrated by foreign capital, overwhelmed by " interna-

l" culture, and amputated by an unfair partition of the old Yugoslav state: 1,000 years of heroism could peter out into a marginal little appendage of Germanic Europe. Somehow this war is supposed to help avert that fate.

Much has been written about the victim culture in Western societies, particularly in the United States, as it applies to individuals and to groups. But it exists as a tendency in whole nations, too, and there is presumably some connection between the growth of this mentality in individuals and in peoples. Versions of the same culture can be identified in the Middle East and the former Communist Bloc and perhaps elsewhere in the world.

The causes are varied but the end result is the same: Being a victim, and striking out at one's enemies, becomes the principle around which individual, political, and even international life is organised. When a people has genuinely suffered greatly, it is particularly dismaying that this is often a victimhood that recognises no one else's tragedies and sees no one else's tears. When they have

not, it is galling beyond belief to have some national mishap transformed into a great injustice and offered as an excuse for aggression against others.

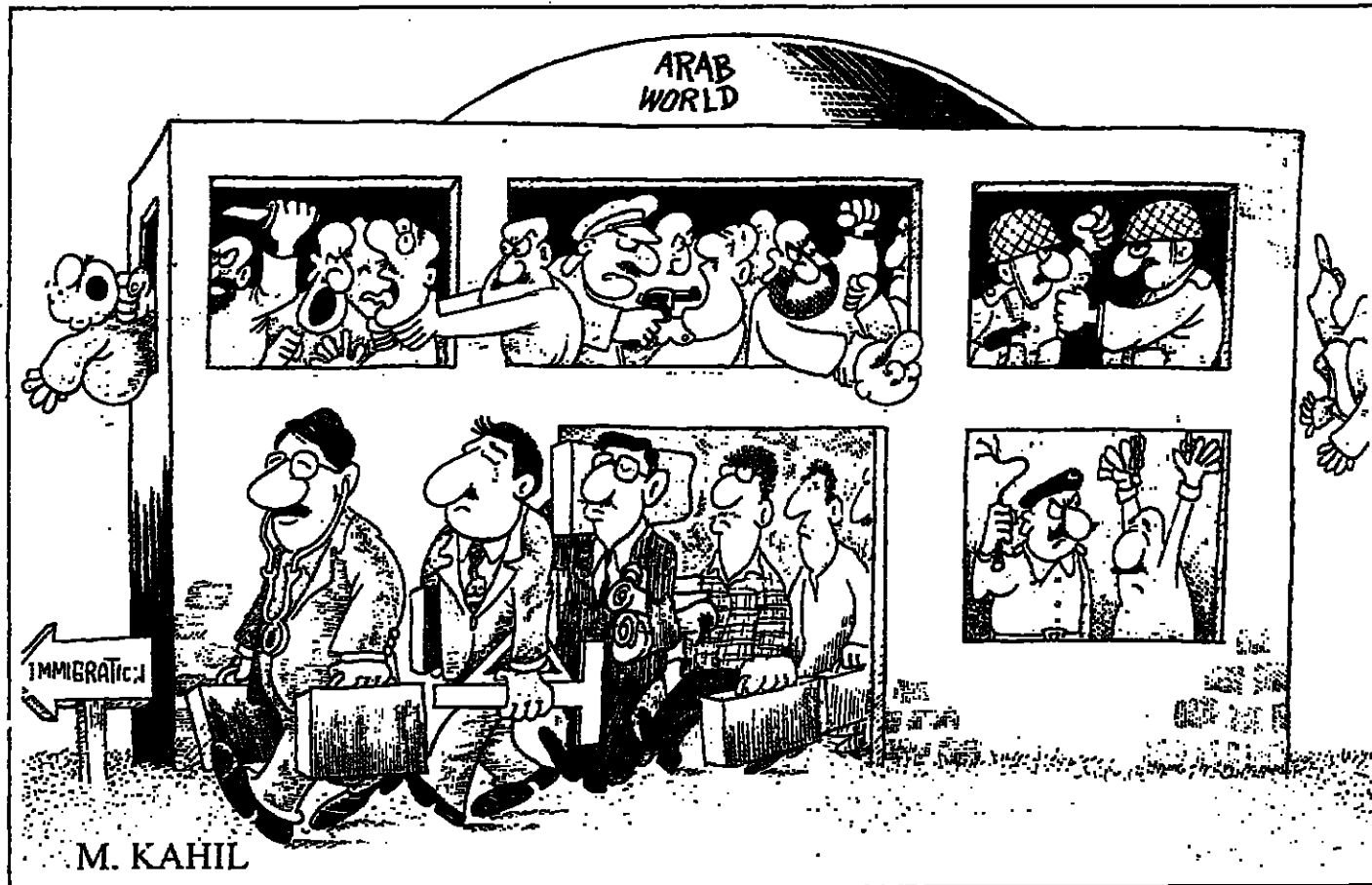
We are too apt to label the conflicts that have surprised us recently as the result of "ancient hatreds" bursting out now that the repressive structures that used to contain them have been removed. It is more likely that under the surface in many societies a selfish and regressive development, that of the victim mentality, was under way. Beginning with an understandable preoccupation with power and the forms of oppression, it becomes a reflex that justifies everything. If that is true, what we see now are new quarrels, even though they borrow their rhetoric from the past.

The sense of being a victim is so widespread now as to have begun to infect even old-established and secure nations. The best antidote is, as Makiya argues, the honesty of intellectuals. Misfortunes and disasters in national life ought to be coolly measured by such people and seen as part of the web of adversity that afflicts all of us to some extent, and which justice must try, in each generation, to untangle.

That triangulation by reference to the great conflicts no longer should reassure so completely. Anyone who has read the journals and letters of World War I combatants is aware of how full of pity most of them are, a pity that specifically includes the enemy.

The moral sensibility seen again and again in the recorded world of one ordinary serviceman of that time should give us pause today. We hear faint echoes of it in the puzzled comments of British soldiers in the hills round Tuzla, but one hesitates to think what would be in the daybook of the average Serbian or Croatian irregular.

We assumed that because we have never repeated the terrible sacrifices of the trenches or the terrible son of the Holocaust we have made moral progress, but unhappily it may not be so.



Gulf between the Arabian knights

Modern Arabic Literature
Ed. M. M. Badawi

Cambridge University Press £75

WITH THE publication of this volume, a monumental academic project is completed. The four tomes of the Cambridge History of Arabic Literature began in 1983 with a volume on pre-Islamic and early Islamic literature up to the middle of the eighth century, and is rounded off by the new one. The series places Arabic literature, for the first time in English, on a par with other world literatures, for which "guides", "companions" and other reference works are in ample supply.

The scope suggested by the title of the current volume is enormous in more than one way. Modern means not only the whole of the 20th century but also the beginnings of modernity to the middle of the 19th. Arabic, on the other hand, denotes the language of the geographic area extending from Morocco on the Atlantic Ocean to Iraq and the Gulf states in the east, while literature includes all the known literary genres: poetry, the novel, the short story, drama, the essay, with special chapters devoted to literary criticism, Arab women writers and verse composed in the many Arabic vernaculars. To each of these genres anything between one and three extended essays are devoted. Contributions are made by a variety of academics based on both sides of the Atlantic as well as the Middle East.

The book begins with a four-page chronology of the historical events that form the broad background to the "modern" period. The first two dates listed are 1787 and 1798, which mark, respectively, the death of Muhammad Ibn Abdul Wahhab, founder of the Wahhabi movement in Arabia, and the arrival of Bonaparte's campaign in Egypt. The symbolic power of these two events is inestimable. Wahhabism is a fundamentalist Islamic movement which until today has had tight control over the daily manifestations of social and cultural life in Saudi Arabia (it was partly through a historical alliance with the Wahhabis that the Saudi dynasty eventually gained control of Arabia earlier this century and since that time has allowed them to run society according to their terms, excepting politics). Wahhabism, which has not been influential outside Arabia, epitomises the ultra-conservative, traditionalist, anti-modernist forces which have always resisted the movement of Arab societies towards secularism and modernisation. Bonaparte's expedition represents the first dramatic

encounter with Western modernity, an encounter which shook a cocooned and complacent medieval culture into the disconcerting realisation of the existence of a superior and more powerful "other". From that moment on things were never the same again, and although in this instance the French physically left within three years, the impact they made stayed. In addition it was only a matter of time before the entire Arab World fell victim to one European colonial power or another. A love-hate relationship between the Arab intelligentsia and the European model eventually established itself: the natural antagonism towards foreign occupation coupled with a fascination with the culture and technology behind it. There was a fairly early realisation that to emulate the West was also the way to rebuff it.

But the powers of tradition and conservatism have proven recalcitrant throughout. There has always been the argument that to adopt the values and lifestyle of the West was the shortest path to Hell, that a return to the fundamentals of the Arabo-Islamic culture was the only way out of the Arabs' current historical impasse — a call which has gathered fearful momentum during the last decade or so. It is against this constant tug-of-war between the forces of tradition and those of modernisation that Arab social and cultural life has evolved since the last century. Whereas politically, economically and socially the modernisation process has yet a long way to go in its battle with traditionalism (how long depends on which Arab country), insofar as literature is concerned, there is no doubt, as the current volume shows, that its triumph has been complete. Today, even in the politically and socially most conservative of Arab societies, the literature owes both its sensibility and artistic mould largely to modern Western origins.

The history of modern Arab letters is indeed proof that there is no such thing as indigenous purity in culture any more than in race. Fundamentally different as Arabic and European languages are, out of the intercourse between them were born whole new genres in Arabic. It has been argued that the first translations of the Arabian Nights into French and English early in the 18th century was influential in the development of the then young genre of the novel. Two centuries later, the Arabs were to claim back their debt. Rather than hark back to traditional narrative modes (largely episodic in structure) of their native literature, they were fascinated by the complex and versatile form of the European novel which they came to know either in the original or through an ever-growing translation movement.

BOOK REVIEW

Within 50 years or so, Arab novelists were able to rush at a feverish pace through evolutionary stages that took their European mentors centuries to pass through. Today their work is increasingly translated and read all over the world and their efforts were accorded the international recognition they deserved when Naguib Mahfouz, Egypt's foremost novelist, was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1988.

What goes for fiction goes also for drama. Although simple native dramatic forms have existed in some Arab countries for centuries, it was under the influence of Molière, and after a visit to Italy where he experienced Italian theatre and opera, that the Syrian Marun Naqqash produced in 1847, in his own house in Beirut, what has come to be accepted as the first Arab play. From those humble beginnings, the Arab theatre was later to gain momentum in Egypt and eventually achieve maturity at the hands of Tawfiq Al Hakim and other playwrights. Hakim in particular displayed an amazing technical versatility and cross-cultural mobility taking his themes and plot skeletons from Greek and Ancient Egyptian mythology, and from both the Bible and the Koran, while addressing a modern philosophic or social issue.

Even poetry, an art form that the Arabs had perfected as far back as the sixth century before the emergence of Islam and had brought to a high degree of sophistication during the heyday of Islamic civilisation, was not to escape the all-engulfing, Western-inspired spirit of modernisation. After attempts at reviving classical models late last century and during the first three decades of this one, it was first the influence of European romanticism and then of T.S. Eliot and the French symbolists that was to shape the sensibility and technique of the modern Arab poet.

But what have Arab writers done with all these vehicles of expression that they have borrowed from the West? The only brief answer possible is that they have made them their own. As they gained in self-confidence, they adapted them to their needs and grafted onto them new qualities, either dictated by their own artistic temperament, or by an experimental desire to blend them with corresponding indigenous forms. But whatever they did with form and technique, Arab writers remained committed to the vital political and social issues of their societies, issues emanating principally from the gulf between tradition and modernity that has yet to be crossed, political repression and economic hardship at home, and the historical conflict with the "other" represented by Israel and the West — The Independent.

Rasheed El Enany

Diary

IT WAS a bit too late for the Diary's regular writer, Nermeen Murad, to come back in time for this week's column. Her colleagues in the Jordan Times' editorial room thus took it upon themselves to fill her space for the 5th consecutive week (what a long working holiday for Nerm!). They naturally wanted to write about themselves and their colleagues. Forget about Nermeen's favoured style of writing about public figures and seasoned politicians, they said. At their best, they produced the following:

SECURITY 'THREAT' NO LONGER 'THREATENING'
It could have happened due to coincidence rather than design, but it happened anyway. P.V. Vivekanand, chief sub-editor and staff reporter of the Jordan Times, who only the week before was banned from attending the main celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of constitutional powers, bounced back to attend a luncheon in honour of... well, the King, but without a hitch this time. The Diary reported the week before last that the Jordan Times had protested to the Royal Court over the ban imposed by the security authorities on Vivekanand attending the May 2 celebrations. Although the Royal Court has not formally replied to the protest, explanations provided by other officials and sources ranged from "human error" to "genuine oversight" and "groundless" and "baffling". In any event, Anand, having put the sad episode behind him, utilised the new occasion to make news of it. He wrote a colourful story on how His Majesty was received by his hosts, the Adwan tribes of the Jordan Valley. True, he failed to mention (whether by design or coincidence) the fact that while some of the tribesmen rode horses in the ceremonial welcome extended to the monarch, scores of others came in their gleaming top-of-the-line Mercedes-Benz cars and asked for financial support to assist them in running their farms in the Jordan Valley. But Anand, the clever journalist, did not let that failure stop him from pursuing his kind of investigative reporting. He tells us that the lunch cost some JD \$10,000, a piece of news obtained by no other journalist.

JOURNALISTS OR IDEOLOGUES? In Jordan, it's hard to tell. A widespread phenomenon here is that of journalists who cover press conferences only to listen to fellow journalists reply to questions. At a press conference held recently by the Muslim Brotherhood parliamentary bloc, a Jordan Times female reporter stood up to ask just which party the Brotherhood believed to represent the Palestinian people "since (as the Brotherhood argued) the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) evidently didn't." Shortly after the gentlemen on the podium started to volunteer some answers, a local journalist cut in with his own statement to "clarify" the Brotherhood's position. At the same press conference another "journalist" offered a long discourse on the peace process and the PLO and other related issues as if he was not already shoving his opinions down the people's throat on daily basis in his daily column. At another recent gathering of the press, as it might be called by now, a reporter for a new weekly asked Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), a long and incomprehensible question that ended with the following words: "The so-called land of Palestine." A journalist in attendance, who is notorious for mixing up press freedoms and jingoism, could not swallow it. "I object to the term of 'so-called land of Palestine'," he shouted and rambled. "Palestine is there and will always remain Palestine." Even Hawatmeh appeared to have been taken aback by the outburst, and he tried to calm him, but there was no way he could outbid our overzealous "journalist."

MATCH-MAKERS EYE J.T. REPORTERS: One would have thought that there is no scarcity of girls eligible for marriage in this country. But not so for two dear old ladies who walked into the newspaper offices the other day, ostensibly to place an advertisement. As it turned out, their real mission was to "view" two female reporters and to inquire about their family backgrounds, and maybe even their life histories. So flattered was at least one of the reporters that she nearly forgot about problems she faced in connecting with other sources. The reporter, who is said to be responsible for making a government official lose his job after she published a newspaper interview with him which upset his superiors, has been ostracised by public officials who keep the "door" closed to her inquisitive ways. If things do not change for her soon, i.e. if the officials do not stop thinking she is that "dangerous," she might have to end up taking the ladies on their proposition, something she does not seem at all eager to do so far.

BIG NEWS, DELAYED EFFECTS: It will have escaped the notice of a few readers that since the beginning of May, the Jordan Times has expanded into a 10-page newspaper. The editor is naturally proud of the achievement, but has probably been too modest to announce it formally. The last we heard from his office is that he has in fact been working on some form of an announcement which, it is rumoured, will be made soon, along with an informed advice on how best to read and enjoy reading the "new-look, bigger" newspaper. Because the Diary generally likes and does scoop everybody else in our business, including the Jordan Times' chief editor, we have to give you a glimpse of what he is likely to say in his impending "notice to our readers." It will go like this, we bet: "A 10-page newspaper is not such a big achievement. After all, our sister Arabic daily cannot be carried around anymore because of its huge number of pages. Nevertheless, the expansion is healthy and a step forward, considering the financial and logistical constraints facing us as a small, foreign language newspaper. We have not previously announced the expansion due to the fact that, since the beginning of May, we have been only experimenting with the lay-out and arrangement of the pages. Now, however, we know what we want, and we are pleased to tell you about it. The front page, according to the new arrangement, gets a back-up page to carry more up-to-date news and photos. The back page will also accommodate jumps (continuations) from page 1, which will make it easier for readers to find them. There will be two economy pages, instead of one, and bigger pages for sports and features. The other reason for delaying this announcement is the delay that has only now become evident in receiving a new computer system, which would give our paper not only a new look but also a new lease on life. That system is definitely coming, we are told by the financial moguls of Al Ra'i Foundation, which owns us. When, is the question that has yet to be answered." By the way, dear readers, we have found you a third reason why the editor was reluctant to come out in the open with the good news of the expansion. Today's issue will have only 8 regular pages, not the 10 we've promised, simply because our printing press cannot cope with 14 pages. The maximum number the old lady could handle in time for us to make it on your breakfast table is 12 pages — 8 regular and 4 Weekender. Good reading to all.

Dreaming of the future

By Jean-Claude Elias

At a conference given earlier last year in Amman, an official from British IBM declared: "Information technology is in its infancy...the computer industry still has a lot to show to the world, ...the best is yet to come..."

For most of the computer specialists in the audience, who are usually proud of their machines and like to brag about their impressive characteristics, the statement was a bit of a shock. All those megabytes, megahertz, nanoseconds and flashy figures would be nothing?

If it is true that raw figures tend to impress the user and help manufacturers sell their products, one should step back and think. Does the user need the figures in a computer's specification or the work that the machine can do? Even if we know it, we still tend to forget it sometimes.

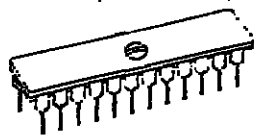
Currently, a typical personal computer's (PC) memory can hold four million characters. A human being's brain is estimated to hold billions and billions of cells. Which is more impressive? Consequently, even if we go by the "figure games", computers are not more impressive than human beings. But, as we said, figures are not everything.

If we forget about the PCs that are available to us today and start dreaming of an ideal, absolute computer, what would we like it to be able to do? First of all it must be "fault tolerant" at both the hardware and the software levels. It should be built, electrically speaking, to withstand power fluctuations, weaknesses and even interruptions. It should have automatic, built-in back up units. For instance if the hard disk fails, there should be another hard disk to immediately, automatically, take over, without the user's intervention. A warning would then be issued to inform the operator that a problem has occurred. In other words, the hardware should be extremely reliable. Much more than it is nowadays.

Software — the programmes — should allow the user to make minor mistakes without affecting the machine's performance. If for instance you are looking for the telephone number of your friend Layla and you type it as 'Leila', 'Laila', or even 'Layza' (assuming that there is no name stored in the PC as Layza), it should retrieve it without any problem or delay.

The most important aspect of the future PC is not even in the above mentioned features that are, after all, partially implemented on some of today's mainframe machines. It's

chip talk



in the basic way we communicate with the PC and their broader compatibility and standardisation.

Word processing is fine, but one should be able to 'dictate' one's correspondence to the computer like to a Dictaphone, through a microphone, without the need for the keyboard's tedious input. Automatic, improved spelling and grammar checking as well as advanced translation from one language to another should be considered as normal features.

Storage of high resolution images and sound should become standard. Currently it is limited by the available disk storage. Sound and image take a lot of storage space and require very fast processors.

For those who work on multimedia applications, involving music and pictures, even the fastest 486 PC is not fast enough. Music, when professionally processed, takes 10 MB (ten million bytes or characters) for each recorded minute. A high resolution, digitised colour picture can take 20 to 50 million characters. A hard disk of 200 MB can therefore hold a maximum of four such pictures or twenty minutes of music. Forget about moving your family photo album or music cassettes to the computer's disk. Only the next generation of PCs will allow a friendly, powerful and affordable implementation of such ideas.

There are countless other applications that we do not even dare to dream of because we have a limited concept of what a computer can do for us. Who would have thought, only ten years ago, that a PC would allow us to send a digital fax, check the spelling of our writing, use CD-ROM laser disks, and print professionally published pages on laser printers at home or in the office?

The IBM guy was right, the PC still hasn't left its cradle.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

CAPITALS

CAIRO

- Capital of Egypt and largest city in Africa.
- Population: Approx. 12,000,000.
- Al Fustat (Old Cairo) was founded by the Arabs c. A.D. 461; Cairo itself c. 1000 by the Fatimite ruler Jowhar Al Sikkily.
- Population consists of Arabs, Greeks, Copts and other minorities.
- On the right bank of the Nile, 120 miles southeast of Alexandria.
- Former cities are included in it, old walls, gateways, narrow streets, latticed houses, palaces and many mosques.
- The three gates of the city: Bab Al Nasr, Bab Al Futuh and Bab Zuweila are examples of Islamic architecture.
- The city was the administrative headquarters of the allied leaders during World War I.
- Parts of Cairo are still medieval.
- Most of the modern parts of the city consist of broad boulevards, with European-built villas, hotels, etc.
- Modern improvements include new bridges over the Nile, new motor roads and suburbs.
- Outstanding landmarks: Cairo Tower, the New Opera House, the Citadel, factories and museums.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

PORTLAND CITY, in the Oregon state, used to organise elections in which the students' opinions are taken into consideration whenever a teacher is appointed or dismissed.

A CANADIAN WOMAN found a frog that has got eyes inside its mouth!

INDOOR football matches are played between two teams of six bandaged-eye players.

A CRICKET MATCH, supposed to be played between England and India on Feb. 16, 1980, was postponed due to a solar eclipse.

AN AUSTRALIAN LADY went on ironing clothes for 89 hours and 32 minutes without stopping.

A WEALTHY AMERICAN deposited \$400,000 to cover the expenses of clothing nude animals.

HAPPY DREAMS

Love: Dreams of sincere love are a forecast of happiness and contentment through a healthy and intelligent adjustment to the conditions of life; but a dream of illicit love or sheer lust has a portent of disappointment or failure due to your own greed. To dream of observing the lovemaking of others predicts success in your current undertakings.

FLIRT: An omen of social success if kept within the bounds of good taste, but if done with malicious intent, it signifies trouble brewing in domestic affairs.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

OCEANS

- The four oceans are: The Atlantic, the Pacific, the Indian and the Arctic.
- Oceanography is the scientific study of the sea, sea currents, the rocks on the sea bed and the fish and animals that live in the sea.
- Some people refer to the sea as the ocean which can also be used figuratively for any very large or plentiful

quantity, e.g. oceans of time, oceans of space, oceans of tears.

- Balboa named the Pacific Ocean.
- Oceania comprises the islands of the South and Central Pacific Ocean.
- The Pacific Ocean is the largest whereas the Indian Ocean is the smallest.
- The greatest depth can be found in the Pacific (36,201 ft).
- The International Date Line runs through the Pacific and the Arctic.
- How Deep Is the Ocean is a song composed by Irving Berlin (American) in 1932.

TIME FOR FUN

- Maria had so many boy friends she didn't know which to choose from. She finally decided to call in an expert to help solve her problem.
- "Papa," she asked, "what kind of a husband should I look for?"
- "Frankly, if I were you," he replied, "I wouldn't seek a husband at all. It's too dangerous. Take my advice and choose a single man."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

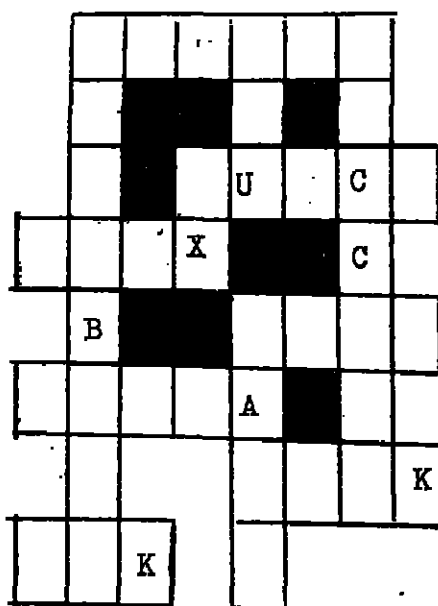
- "Why, when I was your age," Uncle Pete sounded off, "I got me a job in a grocery store, worked at four dollars a week for six years until I had enough money to buy the store. That goes to show you what hard work and ambition will do for a man. Why can't you go out and duplicate that?"
- "Well," said Julius, shaking his head as if frustrated, "These modern cash registers are pretty hard to beat!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- NEIGHBOUR: "Ah, your baby looks very pretty in that dress. Where are you taking her?"
- MOTHER: "To her grandmother's house for a general over-mauling."

PUZZLES

- (A) ANIMAL INTERLINK: THE NAMES of twelve animals complete this inter-linked puzzle. Can you discover them? NINE letters have already been inserted for your assistance.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- (B) Do it in a minute: What two whole numbers, neither containing any zeros, when multiplied together equal EXACTLY 1,000,000,000?

The tea party

By E. Yaghi

Another day in the jungle and Mother Turtle had awakened early because she felt very excited about a tea party she was planning to have. "Let me see," she said to the green jungle plants as she basked on a log in the sun, "I'll invite the orange lion, the yellow baboons, the silver fox and I'll even ask the blue nightingale to come and sing for she has the most beautiful voice of all the birds. I'll just have to try my new recipe again for my special tea since it's been successful on other occasions. As I am getting older and am sure to have a bit of trouble getting things ready, I shall see if some of the animals can help me for my intention is mainly to bring the creatures of the jungle together for a day of fun."

So after she warmed up her tired old self a bit more and got herself into working temperature, she slowly made her way to invite everyone she could think of and to procure help in preparation for the party. And then she stopped in her path and remembered, "oh, I almost forgot to ask the orange lion's permission for holding this celebration. I'm sure he'll agree as I heard he likes get together and eating tea cakes."

When she approached the orange lion's lair she was amazed at his fierce look and his thick mane made him seem even more foreboding so she spoke in a meek voice. "Excuse me, Sir Lion, I am thinking of having a tea party this afternoon. Would you be so gracious as to give me your consent for the affair and be my guest of honour?"

The orange lion stretched himself where he lay under a shady tree and yawned, revealing short powerful jaws and long sharp teeth and answered: "Why of course, my dear. I would be delighted. We haven't had a party for several years, but be sure to make a lot of tea cakes because I'm as hungry as a lion. Don't forget the punch and don't be late!"

She lumbered away as fast as she could because the gruff growl and threatening appearance of the big orange cat frightened her. Next she visited the silver fox. He sat in front of his den smoking his pipe with one paw and stroking his pointed beard with the other and looking very clever while he gloated over his sleek soft silver coat of fur and bushy tail. He glared at her with his piercing blue eyes making her feel uncomfortable.

"Hello, Mr. Fox. Would you like to come to my tea party this afternoon?"

Although he was short even for a fox, he seemed to puff himself bigger than his size and said in a disdainful voice, "I've tasted your cakes before. They're not much you know, but they'll do I suppose. Yes, I think I will come but be sure to have everything ready because I'm hungry. Don't forget to make lots of tea!"

Again she hurried away as fast as she could because there was something puzzling about the sly silver fox that she couldn't quite define, but he gave her a feeling of uneasiness and she didn't trust him. Next she approached the yellow baboons who were eating nuts and fruit and picking lice off their shiny hair that gleamed in the jungle sun. My, they seem very vain, Mother Turtle thought, with their sleek yellow hair, bare red faces and cold friendless airs. She spoke to one who appeared to be in charge.

"Hello, I'm having a tea party this afternoon. Would you like to come?"

The yellow baboon queen sneered at her and replied with a forced voice, "Since when do baboons stoop to having tea with turtles?"

But a monkey right next to her jabbed the queen and said, "Why not?" We'll have some free food and then leave."

So they agreed to attend Mother Turtle's tea, but when she asked for help because she was old and not as quick moving as she once had been, she was answered with: "Oh, no, not us, much too busy picking fleas and we must swing from the vines for exercise but we'll help in eating because we're scavengers."

So after she had made the rounds of the jungle and invited all the animals, Mother Turtle hurried home to fix her cakes alone. She hummed and whistled while she worked and when she finished her baking at last, it was almost time for the party to start. "Ah, I really did myself in this time. Not as young as I used to be. Well, it's all in the name of doing something good for the rest of the jungle. Don't get much out of it myself but exhaustion."

Nevertheless, if it makes the animals happy, then I will be glad to have been of some service. I hope the orange lion will like my cakes and also Mr. Fox. They should, for I've spent so much effort on them."

Soon, many animals began arriving. There were the giraffes who strolled outside on Mother Turtle's lawn and munched on leaves of high trees. There were also some birds of every imagined colour and Mrs. Nightingale flapped in and perched herself on a branch to make ready for her song. Some zebras dropped by and even the rhinoceros came to have some tea and cakes. Mother Turtle felt very honoured and tried to move as fast as she could to begin serving her guests.

"Your kitchen smells so good!" exclaimed Mrs. Nightingale. "All spicy and nice! Can hardly wait to taste your cakes."

"I'll go and get them now. They're cooling on the table." As she conversed, the orange lion appeared and gave a roar just for show. "Where's the cakes? I'm as hungry as a lion! Is the punch ready too?"

Before she could answer, along came Mr. Fox with his silver coat, looking very sly. "Hmmm? Is everything ready? Do the cakes taste good or did you forget to add something? Where's the tea?"

Again, before she could answer, the yellow baboons swung in on their vines and hopped right past her not even bothering to greet her but began at once to chatter to the orange lion and silver fox. Mother Turtle could hear their voices ring out in laughter and then Sir Lion growled with a smile: "I do so like active baboons!"

And the sly silver fox squinted his piercing blue eyes and demanded with a cunning smirk: "What have you prepared? I'll give you all the fruit and nuts you need, just ask me for whatever you want! Never mind that old Turtle! The time is for young yellow baboons like you!"

"Best get the cakes and serve the punch and tea," complained Mother Turtle when she overheard their conversation. Feeling disappointed, disgruntled and defenceless, she slowly crawled inside her house. But when she reached the kitchen she screamed: "Oh, look everyone, someone's stolen my cakes, my recipe and my tea and punch!"

All the animals of the jungle tried to rush into Mother Turtle's small kitchen but when they did, her whole house collapsed for it was only made of mud and sticks after all.

"Oh, dear me. I hope no one is hurt!" and she looked around to be sure everyone was all right. Then quite puzzled she questioned with her wrinkled old eyes growing bigger: "But where are the orange lion, the silver fox and the yellow baboons?"

Why, they were having a tea party at the other end of the jungle! The yellow baboons had stolen Mother Turtle's tea cakes, her punch and her tea too and sat on a clearing with the orange lion and silver fox in the warm jungle sun laughing and joking about their success in being thieves and hurting Mother Turtle. And while they were having a good time, every now and then, a baboon would pick off a flea and eat it.

The very eager orange lion purred: "Indeed, I do so like active monkeys! Such good tea cakes you make and I so enjoy your punch! We must do this more often."

The overly attentive silver fox added in a sly voice: "Monkeys like you are sure to get ahead in life. Just come to me for all the fruit and nuts you need and we'll all have a grand time having tea parties."

The coy, priggish queen of the yellow baboons haughtily replied with a good deal of arrogance: "Yes, now that we stole the cakes and Mother Turtle's recipe, we shall have lots of parties from here on and only invite Sir Lion, Mr. Fox and ourselves, for we are all the company we need. Who cares about all the other animals in the jungle and about Mother Turtle's feelings? We're much too conceited to worry about anyone but ourselves. It's such fun to be empty headed and shallow thinking!"

With this statement, she popped a flea into her mouth, stroked her soft yellow hair, then gave a wide yawn just like any typical monkey and smiled quite satisfied with herself for she was the queen of the baboons and had the orange lion and silver fox just where she wanted them.

The moral of this true story is: Remember when in jungle, do as the jungle animals do and the boss is always right no matter what, even when he's wrong, he's right!

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 20

8:30 Coach

My True Love

Hyden buys a ring for Christmas as a Christmas present.

9:30 Soccer Match

10:15 News In English

10:30 Soccer Match

11:15 Movie Of The Week

Chance Of A Lifetime

Starring: Betty White

Evelin runs the company efficiently after her husband's death. Suddenly she discovers that she has a serious illness.

Friday, May 21

8:30 Alf

9:10 E.N.G.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Wagner

Saturday, May 22

8:30 Super Bloopers And New Practical Jokes

9:00 Perspective

9:30 Music

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Nothing personal

Starring: Amanda Donohoe and Bruce Dern

Roberta Whitloff, a cop burdened by guilt since the day her brother was killed in front of her, has become a danger to everyone. Following a touchy incident, the police close the file on her brother's death. Roberta, a hard and stubborn character, decides to act alone. How will she find the murderer? She tries to engage the help of a tough bounty hunter, Billy Archer. Unfortunately, things don't work out and she finds herself alone once again. Will she discover the real reason for her brother's death? Roberta, a live wire and obsessive character who works within or outside the law, undertakes her investigation with vengeance as her guiding light.

Sunday, May 23

8:30 Executive Stress

9:10 The Good Guys

All That Sparkies

Sarah gives Lofthouse a lift to his interview for a job as a diamond courier. She leaves the children with MacFadyen. Guy Lofthouse is running late as he is in Covent Garden rather than Hatton Garden. There is an urgent call for Lofthouse telling him that there's the chance of a lifetime job if he can get to Browns Hotel by two o'clock to meet a Mr. Neussens.

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Series

Monday, May 24

8:30 The Powers That Be

The grandmother comes to her son's house to celebrate her birthday.

9:10 Documentary — Dinosaur

10:00 News In English

10:20 Jordan Weekly

10:40 Street Justice

Paranthood

Adam and his friend help Carmen whose husband tries to get the custody of their children.

Tuesday, May 25

8:30 Beadles About

9:10 Forever Green

Harriet's unpleasant memories of her dead father are revived by a visit to her late father's lady friend, and Jack helps her to cope with the situation.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Wednesday, May 26

8:30 Chance In A Million

Alison is preparing herself to marry Tom.

9:00 World Cup Soccer Match

10:00 News In English

10:15 World Cup Soccer Match continued

11:00 The Gravy Train Goes East

Action man Mel Gibson—a romantic at heart

By Robert Shelton

LONDON—Filmgoers have a fairly fixed mental picture of superstar Mel Gibson. The characters he created in *Mad Max* and *Lethal Weapon* were so popular that both action adventures went on to become trilogies. Just as we thought we had Gibson fixed in our mind as the impulsive, eccentric detective Martin Riggs in the third *Lethal Weapon* film, the dark-haired, blue-eyed actor goes all romantic in his latest film, *Forever Young*.

Gibson has strong, personal romantic feelings. "I give my wife the occasional potted fern or plant, and I was quite a romantic when I was a teenager," he admitted. "I recall singing some love lilt outside a girl's school when I was only 16. I serenaded not just one girl, but the whole lot of them. Then a grumpy matron came after me and I ran away."

The actor has taken roles against his type before, notably as Prince Hamlet in Franco Zeffirelli's 1991 film of the Shakespeare production. The thought of ruggedly primitive Gibson playing the conflicted "inaction man" in Shakespeare caused widespread amusement, but Gibson had the last laugh—he brought his enormous following to the cinemas in a widely praised role that even he has

come to accept as "not too bad."

Gibson is a curiously candid man who exhibits introspectiveness and little vanity. Top ranking among Hollywood stars, he can for the most part decide his own roles. "I've done a couple of things for the brass and while doing them, I enjoyed myself," he said. "I've also done things for love that I've hated. Really, there's not a conscious plan. At the end of the day, the whole damn thing is a business, making films, and you want the chance to fire a blank, now and then."

He says it is gratifying when a picture turns out to be a massive box-office hit. "When something proves popular, you know you're hitting a nerve somewhere. I once did something that made a lot of money, and I thought it was horrendous, but I'm not going to tell you the title!"

Forever Young is the story of a World War II American test pilot who helps a friend with an experiment in cryogenics. Because his character is distraught over a loved one's near-fatal accident, he agrees to "be frozen" for a year. Needless to say, the experiment goes wrong and he sleeps for 50 years. He wakes in 1992, still in love with his injured sweetheart.

"I like old-fashioned film romances like *Random Harvest* (a 1942 film about an amnesiac, starring Ronald Colman and Greer Garson). I used to watch those great films of the 1930s and 1940s while I was growing up," Gibson said. "Anybody with a bit of a ticker behind their rib cage couldn't help but respond to that kind of film."

Gibson says he was drawn to *Forever Young* by its simple, romantic fantasy, which he thinks is a good antidote to 1990s cynicism. "When I first read the script for *Forever Young*, I felt emotionally affected. It's a very nostalgic story that really works dramatically. It pulls at the heartstrings, but has some humour and lightness also."

Although Gibson is the first to admit he was no overnight success, the first of his three *Mad Max* roles hit that popular nerve he speaks of. From its release in 1979, Gibson was destined to be an international star.

Max Rockatansky is a war hero in a futuristic setting, amid the rubble and debris of a war to end all wars. He emerges as a motorbike man, a cut above the rest. The film was directed by physician-turned-film director George Miller (who just made the startling *Lorenzo's Oil*, a film about a family battling their son's illness). Something of



Famous for his "macho" movies Mel Gibson hides a tender streak under his tough facade

the epic battle between the bikers and police must have fueled the movie's success. Two years later came a se-

quel, followed in 1985 by *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome*. Gibson was born on the

American east coast. His father emigrated to Australia, bringing young Mel along. He graduated from high school there and entered Sydney's National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA). Even after the success of the first *Mad Max* film, Gibson returned to NIDA for further study and a chance to gain practical stage experience.

In Adelaide, he joined the State Theatre Company of South Australia and received some coveted reviews. He was recognised with the Australian Film Institute Best Actor Award for his role in *Tim*, in which he played a retarded handyman in love with a woman twice his age.

He won another major award for his role in Peter Weir's brilliant *Gallipoli* film. In 1983, he again worked with director Weir in *The Year Of Living Dangerously*, a story of intrigue set in South East Asia. He appeared on stage in Arthur Miller's *Death Of A Salesman* and then played the mutiny leader Fletcher Christian in the remake of *The Bounty* in 1984.

Another popular character Gibson created is the volatile, almost unstable detective Martin Riggs, an impulsive policeman tamed only by the mellow reserve of his partner, played by Danny Glover. The three *Lethal*

Weapon films had a different sort of violence than *Mad Max*. Yet Gibson does not regret, in retrospect, so much screen violence.

"I won't disown what I've done, even though some actors are now doing that," he said. "I don't believe I've been involved in all that much violence. The *Lethal Weapon* films are meant to be setups, not to be taken all that seriously." He says that film is much maligned for violence these days and is being made a scapegoat. "Nothing breeds violence in a community quicker than poor management in government," he said.

Gibson and his wife have six children, the eldest of whom is 12. He, like other parents, pays attention to what they watch on TV, video or in the cinema. "You draw the line. I'm certainly not going to screen *Basic Instinct* for them," he says that if he were offered a film that might be damaging to the viewer or to society, he'd call a halt. "There is a point where I wouldn't become involved if a film is too negative in approach, too damaging."

Because the three *Lethal Weapon* films had such box office appeal, there's talk already of a fourth film in the series. Gibson has his doubts, however. "How many times can you do the same script,

the same character?"

Gibson also has his doubts about Shakespeare on film. "There's been talk of me as Marc Antony. I think Hamlet is better on stage—where it can evolve over a long period of time—than frozen on celluloid film." But he admits that Hamlet did look nice and reached a lot of people.

In *Forever Young*, Gibson's character has to age 50 years. "It often took five hours of makeup and felt like a wet pizza was on my face," he said. "You think a bit about your own aging, but I don't see myself looking like that when I am 80!" There's so much emphasis on youth in Hollywood. Some people are always having their face lifted, and the dimples on their chins are really just their navels," he joked.

"Everyone wants to stay young but there's something to be said about the peace of mind you begin to get when you grow older," he said. "My thirties are a lot better than my twenties were. If you don't lose your mind or get Alzheimer's Disease, my sixties could be even better. I suppose what *Forever Young* is really saying is that certain feelings, like deep love, are really for a lifetime. A few years here or there are not really going to change such an important feeling as that." World News Link.

De Niro read screenplay aloud twice to decide between roles

By Terril Jones
The Associated Press

CANNES, France — Robert De Niro says he had to read aloud the entire screenplay of his latest movie twice to decide which of the two main roles he would play.

De Niro, whose presence at the Cannes Film Festival has been the biggest sensation so far of this annual cinematic frenzy, acted out the two roles in *Mad Dog And Glory* with the director and producers before settling on the part of Wayne Dobie, a timid cop who has a heart of gold.

The other role, of mobster moneylender and sometimes stand-up comic Frank Milo, is played by veteran comedian Bill Murray.

But it could have been either way, with De Niro easily imaginable as the pitiless mafia loan shark, who's willing to make friends, and Murray as the soft-spoken detective who learns to make a stand.

De Niro went through both roles with a group including director John McNaughton and co-producer Martin Scorsese as they figured out what to do.

"I read the part of Frank and the part of Wayne in back-to-back screenplay sessions," De Niro said at a packed news conference Sunday.

"I was leaning toward Wayne," he told about 500 reporters at the seaside Palais Des Festivals. "Frank Milo has great charm. He's tough

but does comedy—but I've done that before."

"It was a very offbeat script, but a great idea," said De Niro, simply dressed in a black T-shirt and suede windbreaker-type jacket.

Murray did not take part in the readings but was suggested after De Niro settled on Wayne's role.

"Bob decided to bring Bill in, and it was a great idea," said McNaughton, whose previous credits include *Henry Portrait Of A Serial Killer* and *The Borrower*.

In the film Wayne inadvertently saves the life of mafioso Frank, who scornfully walks away from the scene but later invites Wayne to his club to say thanks—and offers his barmaid Glory (Uma Thurman) to Wayne

for a week.

Predictably, Wayne falls in love with Glory, and predictably, problems arise when Frank wants her back.

Thurman, widely noticed in *The Adventures Of Baron Munchausen* and most recently starring in the thriller *Jennifer Eight*, said she did not feel the film encourages tolerance of women bartered as objects between men.

"The film might say it's a popular notion if it supported the notion," said Thurman, wearing a loose brown dress and sunglasses. "But in fact the character is trying to get out of the situation."

Richard Price, who wrote the screenplay, based *Glory* on a woman he met on an airplane who was in the same position as Thurman's char-

acter, McNaughton said. "Unfortunately, life is not always politically correct," he said. "In the 1980s, this still exists."

Murray is less than scintillating, as a comic lacking the suave energy of the lounge lizard he played on television's *Saturday Night Live* in the 1970s, and unconvincing as a mobster heavyweight who yearns to make people laugh.

De Niro, who has played both mafia boss (*Godfather II*) and would-be stand-up funnyman (*The King Of Comedy*), does well as the tender cop who delivers his neighbours' newspapers and hasn't drawn his gun in 15 years.

Thurman is a deliciously innocent nymph who is inde-

bited to Frank for favours done for her brother, in trouble with the law, but is fed up doing Frank's bidding and wants out.

De Niro's grand entrance up the steps of the Palais created pandemonium among the thousands of fans gathered outside for the mid-night screening of *Mad Dog Saturday* night, but was short-lived as he strode straight into the theatre, much to the chagrin of scores of photographers clustered at the entrance.

About 30 minutes into the film however, the actor reappeared for more poses with the photographers, dressed in tuxedos in line with the strict Cannes Film Festival tradition for evening screenings.



Actors Robert De Niro and Uma Thurman share a laugh as they pose for photographers at the Cannes Film Festival where they are promoting the film *Mad Dogs And Glory* in which they star (AFP photo)

After 50 years and 30 films, Kurosawa plans to keep going

By Terril Jones
The Associated Press

CANNES, France — After 30 films in a 50-year career, filmmaker Akira Kurosawa, 82, has no plans to stop, much as the revered professor in his new work, *Madadayo* (not yet).

One would think Kurosawa, attending the Cannes Film Festival for the international premiere of the film, would merit retirement at his age after two Academy Awards and such acclaimed films as *The Seven Samurai*, *Rashomon* and *Ran*.

But like Hyakken Uchida, the writer on whom his new

film is based, Kurosawa seems to thumb his nose at the world and say, "not yet."

Madadayo is based on the life of essayist and poet Uchida, who died in 1971, but the parallels with Kurosawa's own life are undeniable.

Both are creators, at times consumed with their artistry. Uchida, played by Tatsuo Matsumura, is adored by his students, much as Kurosawa is treated as the master of Japanese cinema by film aficionados. And Uchida died when, like Kurosawa today, he was 82.

Uchida's persistent repetition, even in weakened old age, of *Madadayo* is Kurosa-

wa's personal defiance of death, insisting it's not time to go.

In fact, he says, there are dozens of movies he still wants to make, and three in particular, though he won't elaborate.

Madadayo was one such lingering pet project. "I've respected Hyakken Uchida very much since a long time ago, but I always thought it would be very difficult to make a film about him," Kurosawa recalled following a screening of the movie at the Cannes Festival.

"He had an extremely unique way of speaking, difficult for even Japanese to understand,



Akira Kurosawa

"But I had some ideas when I came to Cannes last year, and when I went home I

wrote the script in 17 days," Kurosawa said.

It is a two hours, 14 minute tale of respect for an instructor, love for a patron and considerable male bonding.

Uchida's students mobilise themselves to move Uchida from his house destroyed in World War II, and organise a massive search party for a cat gone astray. Led by Hisashi Igawa and George Tokoro, the disciples form a society to throw birthday parties annually.

The scenes are few and sometimes tediously long, especially Uchida's mourning for the cat.

Some of the casting also

seems odd — Tokoro, a goofy comedian, is perhaps best known for television commercials for sliced cheese and mosquito repellent. He nevertheless turns a fine performance as a cheerful, devoted Amaki.

Akira Terao, a well-known television actor and pop singer, is another of the main disciples, yet has no lines.

"I thought he was cut out for someone like that," Kurosawa said. "He loves his teacher but is silent. Perhaps he loved the teacher the deepest."

Terao did, however, provide the film's uncredited

narration.

Reflecting on his 50 years in cinema, Kurosawa says he feels "the same" as when he made his first film, *Sugata No Sanshiro* in 1943, about a fictional judo disciple who combated villains.

Thirty films is not a great number, but "I'm a perfectionist," he said. "I also write the films. I direct them. I put everything in place. I do everything."

He has been lionised by such contemporaries as George Lucas and Steven Spielberg, who convinced 20th Century Fox to back *Kagemusha* when Japanese financiers refused. Japan's Dai-ichi

Co. is financing *Madadayo*. Kurosawa's last film, *Rhapsody In August*, was embroiled in controversy amid criticism that he dwelled on the victims of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki without examining why it occurred.

Recently he has been introducing films shown in Japan's semipublic TV network.

His "Secret" to staying energetic, he says, is that he follows no rules. "Some people say don't smoke, don't drink and you'll live a long life, but not me," Kurosawa said. "I smoke. I enjoy a drink — I just lead a natural life."

Cult film turns tables on intellectuals of French cinema

By Bernard Edinger
Reuter

PARIS — The reviews were nearly all bad but three months after its release a film about a mediaeval knight and his footman lost in modern-day France has drawn seven million spectators and become a social phenomenon. It is also a cult. People returning to see *Les Visiteurs* (The Visitors) a second and third time recite lines in time with the actors on the screen.

Teenagers in the street use some of the comedy's expressions, drawn from mediaeval French and the badly pronounced English of

contemporary French snobs. Psychiatrists fill newspaper columns with analyses of the reasons for its success and the word "visitomania" has been coined to refer to its popularity.

Les Visiteurs is hardly intellectual material, as was sneeringly observed by France's critics when it was released.

In an early scene, the heroes — victims of a magician's potion gone wrong — are ushered into a modern bathroom where they look about uncomprehendingly before finally kneeling to wash their hands and faces in

the toilet bowl.

"It is certain this film will never be picked for the Cannes Film Festival," says Christian Clavier, referring to Europe's premier film competition. Clavier, who plays the ignorant but witty footman Jacquouille, jointly wrote the screenplay.

"But what difference does that make? Most films which do well at Cannes never do well at the box office and the only real judge in our profession is the audience."

Clavier willingly admits *Les Visiteurs* is the antithesis of the super-intellectual new wave films which dominated

French cinema in the 1960s and 1970s.

"People who want to make 'auteur cinema' should write books. Cultural films have killed French cinema and that's why French audiences now flock to see American films," says Clavier.

Les Visiteurs, expected to be seen by 10 million people in France — a fifth of the population — by the end of the summer, is based on a brief screenplay written by its director, Jean-Marie Poiré, several decades ago when he was only 17.

It recounts the extraordinary adventures of Godefroy

De Maltre, count of Montmirail, Apremont and Popincourt returning to his family's feudal estates through a 1,000-year time warp.

From the moment that Godefroy and Jacquouille, also known as La Frippouille (the knave), find themselves on the side of a modern highway choking because of pollution, the film is an endless series of misunderstandings.

Godefroy quickly understands his predicament but is unable to persuade anyone he is anything but a quaintly-dressed and smelly eccentric who speaks odd French.

He is sent to a psychiatric hospital after a brutal encounter with a group of French policemen who club him senseless.

Jacquouille adapts better. He falls in with a female vagrant who roams rubbish tips pushing a supermarket trolley loaded with her belongings.

The two reunite thanks to Godefroy's descendant, the present Countess of Montmirail. The family long ago sold off the castle, now an expensive hotel owned by Jacquouille's descendant, an uppity nouveau riche fop. Godefroy, fearful only of

God and royalty, is aghast when he reads a history book recounting the stripping of aristocratic privileges.

Jacquouille, shielding himself from his master's blows, screws up his courage on hearing the same account and shouts: "I am no longer a serf. I am a free man. Long live the revolution."

Historian Pierre Miquel commended the film for the credibility of its characters. "Most historical comedies mock their characters but this is not at all the case here."

of present-day French bourgeoisie through the eyes of the two visitors.

Poiré said: "The film is undoubtedly a denunciation of modernism but it also underlines the usefulness of certain values brought in by the French Revolution."

Hollywood wants to buy the rights to film a re-make but Poiré says no.

"We realise average American audiences will not go to see sub-titled films. But I think if it is intelligently dubbed, we may have a winner on our hands in America. That's where the biggest film audiences are."

Latin America may face AIDS epidemic

By Peter Muello
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — In a dim cabaret, sultry Valeria Venus announces an X-rated lottery: A night of pleasure for the bearer of a specially marked condom.

Lurking in the shadows is her nemesis, Celso Aids. He cannot be stopped, but Valeria is protected: No condom, no sex.

The scenes are from Venus of Fire, a steamy education video that drew top ratings on Brazilian television. It was produced by the Institute for Religious Studies in Rio, which runs one of dozens of private Latin American campaigns against AIDS.

Polluted blood banks, ignorance, poverty and free-wheeling "macho" attitudes toward sex have pushed Latin America, a region of 450 million people, to the brink of an AIDS epidemic, experts say.

Yet many official AIDS campaigns tiptoe around such delicate topics as homosexuality, prostitution and adultery. Even the simplest message of AIDS prevention — wear a condom — has been suppressed by the Roman Catholic Church.

Venus of Fire is being shown in nightclubs, truck stops and at open-air screenings in red-light districts across Brazil.

"It's aimed at promiscuous

people, who are the most threatened," said the director, Victor Lopes. "But how to reach them? Dressed as nurses, we surely won't."

More than 70,000 cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) have been registered in Latin America since 1981, but officials acknowledge the real number is much higher. More than 2 million more people are believed to carry the HIV virus, which leads to the deadly disease.

Brazil is among the world leaders in confirmed AIDS cases, with nearly 35,000 in a population of 150 million. Only the United States, Uganda and Tanzania have higher percentages.

A former health minister, Alcenio Guerra, estimated that six million Brazilians would be infected by the end of this decade.

According to Dr. Lair Guerra De Macedo, head of the ministry's anti-AIDS programme, "what we have right now is enough to cause a collapse of our health care system."

Fighting the disease, even finding it, can be difficult in Latin American societies that encourage male promiscuity and persecute homosexuals, who often arrange for a wife or girlfriend as a "cover."

A survey by the Colombian foundation Apoyemos, which fights AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases,

found that 38 per cent of the men questioned were bisexual.

As a result, AIDS has spread quickly among women. In Brazil, the ratio of men to women with AIDS went from 124-1 in 1984 to 5-1 last year. It is now down to 4-1 and falling.

"We think AIDS in Brazil is about as bad as in the United States," said American anthropologist Richard Parker, former head of AIDS Prevention for the Brazilian government. "If that's true, the effects will be far more catastrophic."

Uncontrolled or clandestine blood banks also spread

the disease. Commercial banks bought blood from beggars, alcoholics and prostitutes, often for as little as a plate of food.

In Mexico, hundreds of people were infected by transfusions of contaminated blood after the earthquake of 1985.

"There is no quality testing or systematic control, and official information doesn't exist," said Herbert De Souza, president of the Brazilian Interdisciplinary AIDS Association. Mr. De Souza, a hemophiliac, and his two brothers got AIDS from transfusions. The brothers died.

Treatment is expensive, and often denied.

Patients are turned away by overcrowded public hospitals or by medical personnel who fear catching the disease. Many hospitals receive AIDS patients in emergency wards for lack of other space.

Private clinics in Brazil charge AIDS patients \$600 a day or more just for a room, with medical care extra.

In Peru, a few weeks' supply of the AIDS medicine AZT can cost \$300, more than seven times the monthly minimum wage of \$40.

Government AIDS programmes have been hampered by politics, tight budgets and

pressure from the Catholic Church.

Brazil's first anti-AIDS campaign, in the late 1980s, consisted mostly of TV ads for safe sex during the annual carnival before lent.

It is to be revived with a promised three-year, \$125 million loan from the World Bank, but the government has yet to put up the required matching funds.

"The government's action has been a disaster," said Mr. De Souza of the AIDS Association. "We have a joke here: Which does more harm, the virus or the policy?"

In Colombia, the Health

Ministry produced a video about Gabriel Calvo Massey, an artist with AIDS, but the 200 copies stayed on the shelf because there was no money for distribution.

Two TV stations in Chile, including one owned by the Catholic Church, refused to broadcast a government spot suggesting the use of condoms.

In Colombia, Bishop Dario Castrillon protested that a government television spot showing a side view of a naked man reaching for a condom promoted adultery. It was restricted to late-night slots.

"You won't see ads urging people to use condoms," said Ulises Pego of Mexico's National Council for the Prevention of AIDS. "The only thing we can do is create the illusion."

Critics say official campaigns often are more frightening than educational.

A billboard ad in Venezuela, for example, says: "Simply, AIDS kills. Living in pairs is better."

In Argentina, a TV ad shows a teenage couple cleaning out a teenager's room. A voice says: "They thought AIDS was a good way of clearing the world of homosexuals and drug users. Now they're cleaning out their daughter's room."

The "empty room" ad is "terrifying, moralistic and valueless," said Carlos Jaure-

gui, president of Gays and Lesbians for Human Rights. "It encourages discrimination."

Private anti-AIDS groups provide community services ranging from legal aid to counseling, condom distribution and AIDS hotlines.

In Rio, a pioneering programme called health in prostitution recruits prostitutes and transvestites to teach colleagues about AIDS. They arrange medical checkups and give out free condoms, known as "Camisinhas," or little shirts.

Dr. Christopher Peterson, a native of Paulina, Iowa, who directs the programme, says it reaches 3,400 prostitutes and transvestites in Rio.

"The girls used to think you could tell a guy had AIDS if he was skinny or yellow," said Ivanilda Santos de Lima, a prostitute in the programme, which is funded by the Swedish group ABE. "Now they know you can't see AIDS in his eyes."

In Vila Mimosa, Rio's red-light district, a Prostitutes' Association started a radio station to preach safe sex. But sometimes, none of it seems to work.

A survey in Puerto Rico indicated that, in spite of seven clinics, 200 counseling and testing centres and numerous programmes, four of five people with AIDS do not know they have it and only 8 per cent get treatment.

'Macho' tradition breeds AIDS

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The stereotype of the hot-blooded latin lover is cherished by South America's "macho" men. It also has contributed to an AIDS explosion.

Promiscuous sex, closet homosexuals and submissive women have made the continent an ideal breeding ground for the disease, experts say.

"Machismo complicates things," said Richard Parker, an American anthropologist who wrote Sexuality, Politics and AIDS in Brazil.

"Macho" implies assertive, virile and domineering. For Latin American men, it means having frequent sex with diverse partners. That increases the risk of getting and spreading AIDS.

The "macho" man also hates homosexuality.

"You can't be openly gay here like in the United States," said Aldo Araujo of the Homosexual Movement of Lima, Peru. "Everything here is hushed up, so Peruvians are highly uninformed about AIDS."

Mr. Araujo said his group had been threatened by the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, a leftist guerrilla group that has killed homosexuals and prostitutes as part of a "moralisation" campaign.

"In the United States, you have a clearly defined gay community and people identify themselves with it," Mr. Parker said. "You can use it as a base for treatment. Here, there is no gay identity or gay pride. That makes it difficult to do prevention work."

Women are the greatest victims of the double standard of sexual behaviour.

In many Latin societies, a woman is expected to remain a virgin until marriage. A wife cannot ask her unfaithful husband to wear a condom without calling her fidelity, or his, into question.

"That deeply complicates women's ability to protect themselves," said Mr. Parker. "Heterosexual transmission is the most rapidly growing form of infection."

Barnard, Cooley look back 25 years to 1st heart transplants

By Susan Hightower
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Penny Eastham is one of thousands of Americans over the last 25 years given "the ultimate gift" — a second chance at life through heart transplantation.

"You really have a different appreciation for life. The sun is brighter, the flowers prettier, children more im-

portant — your family more important. You don't take things for granted," said the 47-year-old Mrs. Eastham, who received a new heart eight years ago.

She was a guest recently at a 25th anniversary celebration of the first successful heart transplant in the United States.

Dr. Denton Cooley performed that operation on

May 3, 1968, a few months after Dr. Christian Barnard did the first such surgery in Cape Town, South Africa.

The two doctors — long-time friends — held a relaxed news conference at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston, joking and reminiscing about the landmark operations.

Dr. Barnard downplayed the scientific significance of

the first heart transplant.

"You'll be surprised to know that the one thing that amazed us after the first transplant was the tremendous interest in this procedure and the tremendous amount of publicity that followed this procedure, because we never considered the transplant as a great scientific event. It was a technical event."

Louis Washkansky lived 18 days after receiving the first transplanted heart on Dec. 2, 1967. Everett Thomas, the first American patient at St. Luke's, died within a year.

But the life spans lengthened. Dr. Barnard's seventh patient is still alive, 23 years after his transplant.

Frequent recipient rejection of the new heart caused the surgery's popularity to decline after 1972. However, the procedure rebounded in the early 1980s with new organ preservation techniques and immuno-suppressive drugs, particularly the anti-rejection drug Cyclosporine, Dr. Cooley said.

More than 2,000 heart transplants were performed

in the United States last year. The one-year survival rate now is about 80 per cent.

Dr. Barnard, who is retired from operating, is professor emeritus of the University of Capetown. Dr. Cooley is surgeon-in-chief at Texas Heart Institute, chief of cardiovascular surgery at St. Luke's and a professor at the University of Texas Medical School in Houston.

Dr. Cooley said one of the main breakthroughs that has fostered the growth of transplantation is the concept of brain death, that life ends not when all organs stop working but when the brain quits functioning.

"Of course, transplanting the heart isn't like transplant-

ing a kidney or a liver or a lung," Dr. Cooley said.

"People have these concepts of the heart as the seat of the soul, and we wondered how one could take a heart from an individual with the heart still beating and then use it for the benefit of a recipient."

The two agreed that making organ donation automatic in trauma cases could help combat the organ shortage. More than 2,800 patients in the United States are on the waiting list for heart transplants, Dr. Cooley said.

Despite advances in mechanical hearts, Dr. Cooley and Dr. Barnard believe human heart transplantation will remain the

ideal because it offers patients a superior quality of life.

Mrs. Eastham, a speech pathologist, said she's proof of that.

She received her new heart in 1985, 1 1/2 years after her original heart muscle failed and she was told she had 18 months to live. She now enjoys skiing, swimming, snowmobiling, and everyday life with her husband, two teenage children and four dogs and cats.

"I am normal. I have a completely normal quality of life. I do anything I want to do," Mrs. Eastham said.

"I would encourage people to be donors. It is the ultimate gift."

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

LUCKY STRIKES

By Bob Merson

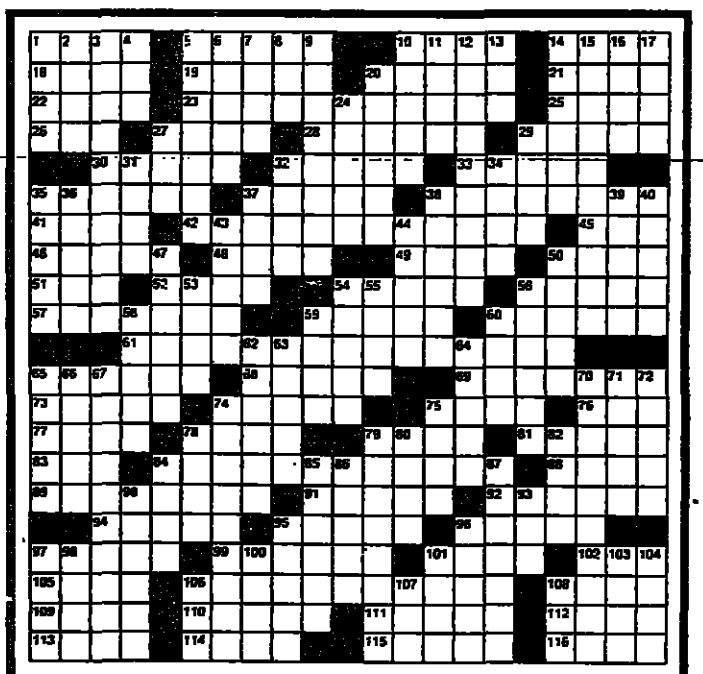
ACROSS

- 1 Comic Bert of old
- 5 Pops
- 10 Curves
- 14 Quilted
- 18 Theater sword
- 19 Pyle or Kovacs
- 20 Veep Agnew
- 21 Supper
- 22 African anellope
- 23 Musicians' district
- 25 Window section
- 26 Uncle Sp
- 27 "Just — doch — an drom"
- 28 Leg bone
- 29 Cow of note
- 30 Society
- 32 Long stones
- 33 Fresh lines

- 35 Fit for
- 37 Like some seals
- 38 Gnu service
- 41 Gramme
- 42 Jukeboxes' hit
- 43 "I — Camera"
- 46 Hang suspended
- 48 n. a.
- 49 Felted one
- 49 Farber
- 50 1201
- 51 Quarter of four
- 52 First residence
- 54 Semmy or Betty
- 56 Did a full job
- 57 Mexican blankets
- 58 Baby problem
- 60 Unpleasant situations

- 61 Harlow and Mason's
- 65 Greek sea
- 66 Lurgies
- 69 Any's stock
- 73 Grandeur
- 74 Lured by portraits
- 75 Study intensely
- 76 Title starter, often
- 77 Felted pan
- 78 Study intensely
- 79 Author Waugh
- 80 Piece of paper
- 81 Stinger or
- 82 Setting
- 83 S.S. Corruption
- 84 Of planes
- 89 Horner's ads
- 91 Pete and Baly
- 92 Common allusion

- 94 Zodiac sign
- 95 Bear drug
- 96 Poison
- 97 Special interest
- 98 groups
- 99 Using a car
- 101 Actor Andrews
- 102 Double
- 105 — Lomond
- 106 Writing items
- 107 Wild plum
- 108 Summer of films
- 109 Poker stakes
- 110 irregularly
- 111 notched
- 112 Rebuttal
- 113 Opera voice
- 114 Pentagram
- 115 Cate patron
- 116 Ancient Italian city



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Rudite shepherd boy cries "lupus!" — but his unsecluded people remain calmly abed while wolf foetal
2. Jealous guy at wheel of old auto eyes his girlfriend in new Jaguar with his best buddy
3. Socially speaking, skating on very thin ice can truthfully give you a fat lip.
4. Some folks rely on a psychiatrist for a checkup from the neck up. It's true.

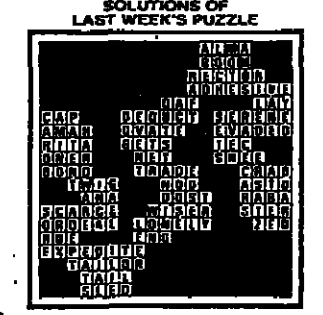
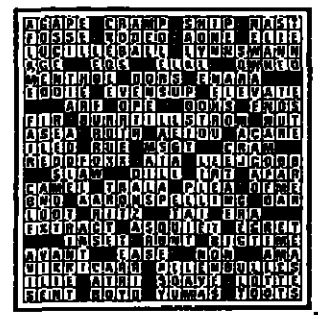
CRYPTOGRAMS

1. CHADG'G DAH KDEMZY EZAAG MBK, "XAW ADI NHH GADT. SRH QADGZ OC EMZ TRRIUTG RX WDO'YZ QDAH." — By Duane H. McGoy

2. JQLV LTAMQJY HRDC HQN XKA HQLDLYK BTJ LTAHTD HKIR AVXK VK BIVV TBB VQC HATXLT. — By Earl Ireland

3. ERUBSY SPLOMICH, JOSPQ BANS CAM, SPLOMISQUOM KUBIM CK MEANS CAM BRUSH UPY JOBUHOM KANS CAM. — By Ed Haddleson

4. POUFT BY OUD PLQ HB PLQDUST DONUTT, MNLF MNULN MLUYHTS STLS LPLQ. — By Rita Salvato



First human trials of pancreas cell transplant launched

LOS ANGELES (R) — Doctors have announced they have begun the first human trials of a pancreas cell transplant procedure they hope will someday free diabetics of the need for daily insulin shots.

Steven Craig, 38, a diabetic for 30 years who underwent

the operation recently, has been able to reduce his daily dose of insulin by 80 per cent, doctors at the St. Vincent Medical Centre said.

He was released from hospital Thursday.

Although the procedure has reversed diabetes in dogs for up to two years, Dr.

Patrick Soon-Shiong, who performed the surgery on Mr. Craig, said it was still in the experimental stage for humans.

He said lengthy trials would be needed before it could be considered a clinical treatment.

In the first operation, doctors implanted thousands of insulin-producing islets — clusters of pancreas cells — from human cadavers into Mr. Craig's abdomen.

The cells were encapsulated in a porous membrane of seaweed extract that allowed the insulin to seep out but prevented the patient's own immune cells from getting through to fight

the foreign cells.

Diabetics rely on insulin injections because their bodies do not produce enough of the hormone to process sugar.

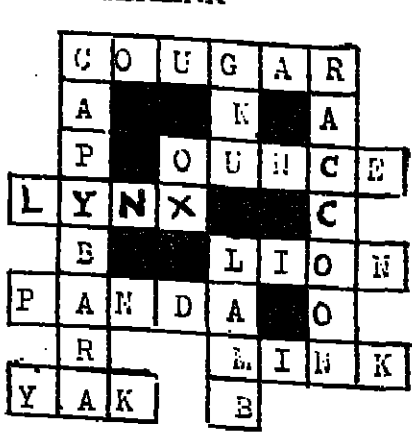
Soon-Shiong said the procedure, which now provides Mr. Craig's body with a natural source of insulin, should prevent the rejection of the new cells that has led to failure in previous transplants of insulin-producing cells.

Doctors also hope it will prevent worsening of Mr. Craig's diabetic symptoms. He has been unable to work for the past seven years because of a loss of vision and nerve damage, and he had to undergo a kidney transplant.

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLES

(A) ANIMAL INTERLINK



(B) DO IT IN A MINUTE; ANSWER: 512 and 1,953, 125. That is 2 to the ninth power and 5 to the ninth power.

Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

can't unless the powers of the elected bodies were pre-defined. We said we wanted legislative powers, and that was agreed upon. We thought some progress had been made. The next day Israel said let's add one phrase, saying that any laws passed by the body must be approved by the (Israeli) military. How can we work in a situation like that?"

He urged the Israelis to get

serious about the creation of an independent Palestinian homeland.

"You have to ask yourselves, how long can you depend on power?" he said. "When you deny the existence of a Palestinian state, you are denying the existence of Israel because the two go hand-in-hand."

He added: "You are an enlightened people — everywhere except in Palestine."

Denmark saves European unity plans

(Continued from page 1)

demonstrators hurled a total of six to eight tonnes of stones at police.

Riot squad chief Willy Eliassen said officers were struck by hurled cobbles, rocks and metal bars. Twenty-four were injured, but all were discharged from hospitals by Wednesday, including one who had remained unconscious through the night, he said.

"Our people fired up to 100 warning shots in the air before shooting at demonstrators," said deputy Copenhagen police chief Anne-Mette Møller. "They were in a life-threatening situation."

Ms. Møller said one rioter was shot in the back, three in the stomach and the other six were shot in the hand, shoulder or foot.

Hospital officials and police refused to comment on their conditions.

The fighting broke out Tuesday night about an hour after informal results showed Danes had approved the Maastricht Treaty.

Mr. Nyrup Rasmussen suggested the melee was "planned and organised" but did not elaborate. He said it should not be linked to those who voted against the Maastricht Treaty.

"Those who have voted 'no' have no sympathy and no responsibility at all for what happened," he said.

Demonstrators had posted a banner saying "EC-free zone" next to a burning barricade across the north bridge, about a kilometre from parliament. But otherwise there appeared little connection to the voting.

Jardaneh says sales tax inevitable

(Continued from page 1)

families and said that there was a long list of items which were exempted from the tax.

He referred to a key demand by the Chamber of Industry to impose the tax on imported goods on their value after the addition of the customs duty and not on the cost of freight (C&F) value.

"Such a calculation would sharply raise prices and the government did not agree to the chamber's request which would hurt the consumer," said the minister.

He said that some industrialists and traders were putting their own interests above those of the public and the country.

Mr. Jardaneh lashed out at a study prepared by the accounting firm Dajani Alae'ddin and describing it as unscientific and shallow.

The study, prepared at the

request of the Chamber of Industry, detailed many negative points against the sales tax but, in conclusion, highlighted that the tax was very beneficial for the national economy in many aspects.

"I can spend weeks writing answers to all the negative points raised in the study, but I regard the few lines at the end of the study as enough positive evaluation, showing the benefit of the sales tax to improve the national economic performance," the minister said.

He said statistics for the first quarter of this year were very encouraging, showing a highly active investment climate and a low inflation rate.

Moreover, Mr. Jardaneh said he was happy to announce that the Kingdom's foreign debt was now under full control, standing at about \$7 billion.

Rabin and Netanyahu face infighting

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's main political bodies were in disarray Wednesday as new arguments tore at Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's cabinet and Benjamin Netanyahu's grip on the major opposition party was shaken.

The infighting overshadowed Mideast peace talks and stymied efforts to end the deadlock in those negotiations, which ad-

joined last week in Washington.

Two fending members of Mr. Rabin's cabinet escalated their battle Wednesday, and a meeting Tuesday night that was supposed to unify Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party ended instead with his rivals walking out in anger.

Mr. Netanyahu was forced to postpone to a later session a show-of-hands vote to a party

governing board after trying unsuccessfully to push through his own candidates.

Leading the rebellion was former Foreign Minister David Levy, who boycotted the three-day conference. It was the first meeting of the right-wing party since Mr. Netanyahu defeated Levy for Likud's leadership in March.

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The chairman and members of MAP's board of trustees wish to express their deepest gratitude and appreciation to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, and Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and his fiancée, for patronising MAP's activities and participating in MAP's march last Friday.

MAP also wishes to express thanks to all brothers and sisters among Jordanian citizens for their efforts to make MAP's activities successful in extending assistance in establishing health centres in Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon.

MAP would also like to express thanks to all those who contributed to the march; diplomatic missions, companies, schools, universities and various organisations either directly or through organising the march, or providing financial assistance.

MAP also thanks all individuals and outlets who contributed to the success of its national lottery campaign.

MAP also thanks the directors of the Amman Baccalaureate School, Nazik Al-Hariri Centre, Civil Defence, Public Security Departments (Traffic Control and Army Music Band), the municipality of Greater Amman, and the Information Services including Radio Jordan and Jordan Television and the Press.

Abdul Majeed Shoman
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

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Palestinian draft outlines aims

(Continued from page 1)

well as descendants, will participate in the election.

3. The FISGA will assume legislative, executive and judicial powers.

4. All powers presently exercised by the Israeli military government and its civil administration should be transferred to the FISGA upon its election and inauguration. For this to be freely exercised, the Israeli armed forces shall start their withdrawal which should be completed according to the agreed upon schedule and time limit, under agreed international supervision.

5. The objective of security arrangements is to achieve regional stability and to respond to mutual needs as well as to create conditions of real peace.

6. The authority of FISGA will extend to all the Palestinian territory occupied since June 1967 which is an integral whole and constitutes a single territorial unit under one system of law.

7. The FISGA and the gov-

ernment of Israel will conclude agreements on cooperation or coordination in specific areas of common concern. These agreements will take into account the security needs of both parties and their mutual benefits.

8. A joint committee will be established between the FISGA and the Israeli government, to consider matters of common concern and to settle disputes that may arise between them.

9. Disputes which cannot be settled by agreement between the FISGA and the government of Israel will be submitted to an arbitration commission to be established from representatives of the United States, the Russian Federation, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and the United Nations, as well as representatives of the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

10. No later than October 1994, negotiations will commence to determine the permanent status (of the occupied territories) and to enable the Palestinian people to freely exercise its legitimate rights.

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Jordan prepares to host World Cup preliminaries

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Soccer fans and officials in various sectors of the Kingdom will be quite busy for a whole week starting Saturday, as Irbid hosts the first round of Asian Group A World Cup qualifying matches, May 22-30, during which Jordan will be playing alongside China, Yemen, Pakistan and Iraq.

The opening ceremony, held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, will be held Saturday at 4 p.m., followed by the first match in which Jordan faces Yemen.

Although Jordan has competed three times in soccer's World Cup preliminaries, this will be the first time the Kingdom hosts these matches.

Preparations for hosting the visiting teams, as well as arrangements for international media coverage, live television transmission and a myriad of other tasks are well on target, according to Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) president, and head of the World Cup preliminaries executive committee, Fakhr Bilbeisi.

In an interview with the Jordan Times Mr. Bilbeisi said that the executive committee is constantly following up the work of the sub-committees, their objectives and any problems they might be facing.

Members of the committee include: the mayor of Irbid, the

president of the Sports Media Federation, the vice-chairman of the Sports Medicine Federation as well as members of the JSF.

Team players will be staying in Irbid, close to the site of the week-long first matches — the Al Hassan Sports City — while officials and referees will be staying in Amman.

Mr. Bilbeisi pointed out that a well-equipped media centre had been set up at the stadium as there would be wide coverage of this international event, sanctioned by the International Soccer Federation — FIFA. Tight security will be maintained at all times.

"We hope that we will successfully host these preliminaries and that the visiting teams will have an enjoyable stay in Jordan," Mr. Bilbeisi said.

FIFA referees from Iran, Syria, Thailand, Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates will be officiating the matches.

The second leg of the first round will be played June 12-20 in Chengdu, China. The group winner will qualify to the second round.

Jordan is better prepared this time

Unlike the first two times of Jordan's World Cup qualifying experience, this year's preparations seem to be the best so far. Mr. Bilbeisi pointed out that the JSF had done its utmost to best



Jordan's national team

prepare the Jordanian team for the upcoming matches. To this end, the team had 10 friendly matches with neighbouring Arab teams.

In Jordan's first World Cup qualifying experience for the 1986 cup in Mexico, the national team only had three preparatory matches. In the qualifying round, Jordan beat Qatar 1-0 in the first

match but lost the second match 2-0, and also lost to Iraq 3-2 and 2-0. In the 1990 World Cup preliminaries, the team had better results although they did not play any friendlies prior to the qualifiers. Jordan drew 1-1 and later lost 1-0 to Qatar. They later lost 1-0 and 4-0 to Iraq. The best results were against Oman winning both matches 2-0.

This time the national team began its preparations five months ago, and received a much needed boost when Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker urged all institutions and companies to fully support the national team and relieve players of their duties to fully prepare for the World Cup matches.

During the past few months the

Jordanian national team had intensive training camps, especially aimed at improving the players' physical fitness. The team later travelled to Syria, Qatar, Oman, and Lebanon to play a series of friendlies. Jordan ended up with an encouraging record — winning 5 matches, losing 1 and drawing 4 times.

Jordan beat Bahrain 1-0 and twice drew with Syria 1-1, and 2-2 and scored one win 3-2. They later played Qatar twice, winning 2-1 and drawing 1-1. In matches against Oman, Jordan won 1-0 and drew 0-0. The latest match was against Lebanon, on May 17, in which Jordan scored a 3-1 win. Lebanon had won the first match in Beirut 1-0.

Schedule of matches in Irbid

★ Saturday, May 22

Jordan vs. Yemen

★ Monday, May 24

Jordan vs. Pakistan

★ Wednesday, May 26

Jordan vs. China

★ Friday, May 28

Pakistan vs. Iraq

★ Sunday, May 30

Jordan vs. Pakistan

Iraq vs. China

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Agassi pulls out of French Open

PARIS (R) — Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi pulled out of the French Open starting next Monday with a wrist injury, tournament organisers said Tuesday. The American, losing finalist in Paris in 1990 and 1991, withdrew from recent clay court tournaments in Hamburg and Rome because of a tendinitis problem. Agassi was seeded eighth in the men's singles. His absence will cause a revision of the seeds which will bring in fellow American Maliwa Washington as No. 16. Agassi's place in the main draw is to be taken by Ronald Agamir of Haiti.

Saudis beat Kuwait to qualify for second round

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia beat Kuwait 2-0 Tuesday night in their World Cup soccer Asian Zone first round Group E qualifier to move to the next round. Saudi Arabia topped the group with 10 points from six games, two clear of Kuwait. The Saudis move to the second round made up of the six Asian group winners. Japan and North Korea have already qualified.

Knicks advance to showdown with Bulls

NEW YORK (R) — The New York Knicks won ugly, but they won, swatting the pesky Charlotte Hornets 105-101 to advance to a long-awaited showdown with the Chicago Bulls in the Eastern Conference finals. The home teams also prevailed in Tuesday's other games as the Seattle SuperSonics beat the Houston Rockets 120-95 and the Phoenix Suns defeated the San Antonio Spurs 109-97. The Sonics and Suns both went up 3-2 in their Western semifinals.

Gascoigne's mask reported stolen

ROME (AP) — Paul Gascoigne has been unmasked. Thieves reportedly broke into the locker room at the training camp of Lazio of Rome and stole the mask worn by the English soccer star to protect a cheekbone shattered by a Dutch elbow. The Rome sports daily Corriere dello Sport said the theft occurred Sunday night. Gascoigne's

inspired play in Lazio's 5-0 rout of Ancona earlier in the day earned him such headlines in the British press as "the masked marvel." The newspaper speculated the mask was stolen by a Lazio fan

3 women judges assigned for Bowe-Ferguson bout

WASHINGTON (AP) — Few think Saturday's heavyweight title fight between champion Riddick Bowe and Jesse Ferguson will go the 12-round distance. If it does, though, it will make boxing history — the sport's most prestigious title would then be decided for the first time by three women judges, who have been assigned the bout by the WBA and IBF, the two sanctioning bodies. Women have worked as title fighting judges before but this is the first time all three judges will be women. The first woman to judge a heavyweight championship was Eva Shain, who worked the Muhammad Ali-Earnie Shavers bout in 1977 in New York. Her opinion counted that night because Ali retained his title in a 15-round decision.

Prost seeks to stop Senna breaking record

MONTE CARLO (R) — Anxious Alain Prost is out to stop Ayrton Senna landing a record sixth win in this weekend's Monaco Grand Prix. Senna, keen to regain leadership of this year's Formula One World Drivers' Championship, knows Sunday's 78-lap race is likely to bring a stiff challenge from his great rival Prost, who is seeking to equal the five-wins record jointly held by Senna and Briton Graham Hill. But Frenchman Prost, who has 34 points to Senna's 32, said: "I have to admit I am a bit apprehensive about Monaco. It is the sort of place and track where you really don't know what is going to happen."

Gomez announces retirement from tennis

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador Ecuador's Andres Gomez, winner of the 1990 French Open, said Tuesday he was quitting tennis. "I've been playing tennis as a professional for 15 years, travelling all over the place, and I think the time has come to retire," he said.

F.A. Cup final replay could go to penalties

LONDON (R) — England's top two goalkeepers may have the last word when Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday meet in the F.A. Cup final replay Thursday.

A penalty shootout seems a distinct possibility if both sides serve up a repeat of Saturday's dour battle.

They are now being urged to throw caution to the wind when virtually all tactical options have been exhausted. But both teams, tired at the end of a typically demanding English season, remain acutely aware that the outcome of an evenly balanced contest could rest on a single mistake.

"There's little difference between the teams. You're not going to get Arsenal or Sheffield Wednesday winning three or four nil," Arsenal manager George Graham said.

They could cancel each other out again and leave Wednesday's England number one Chris Woods and his international understudy David Seaman of Arsenal to fight it out in post-match penalties.

The Football Association last season introduced the penalty shootout to its F.A. Cup rules if there is still a stalemate after extra time in a replay. The final has gone to a replay at Wembley five times since 1981. But it has never gone beyond one replay since the first final 121 years ago.

There were brilliant saves from both keepers Saturday and they were left powerless only once each — with Ian Wright's opener

for Arsenal and David Hirst's second half equaliser.

Wednesday will again be looking mainly to the unpredictable Chris Waddle to inspire them to their first F.A. Cup triumph since 1955.

Arsenal hope Paul Merson can shake off the torpor that gripped him Saturday as they seek an unprecedented double of both senior domestic cup competitions after his key role in their League Cup triumph over Wednesday last month.

Graham is expected to name an unchanged side with Wright re-

covering from soreness in a broken toe which did not prevent him playing Saturday and Adams coping with groin trouble.

Wednesday's Trevor Francis cannot finalise his line-up until a few hours before kick-off when right-back Roland Nilsson returns from Stockholm after captaining Sweden in a World Cup qualifier against Austria Wednesday.

Francis has defenders Peter Shirliff, who missed Saturday's match, and Viv Anderson under treatment.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MAY 21, 1993

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The New Moon in Gemini comes in a package that includes a Solar Eclipse and the Moon time Jupiter bringing pleasant temperaments and kinder dispositions and a positive climate for business activity.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Wind up in the morning the various situations with others requiring your attention after which try the various ideas you think will improve your daily routines.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Keep promises during the morning that you have made to your partner, after which you can get into various obligations that have been neglected, ignored.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can solve a pending duty that has been bugging you but then you find that you will be able to get out in the world to impress some bigwigs.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Confirm an arrangement with a companionable comrade for some recreation, then you can get into meetings with fellow associates to improve tasks.

LEO: (July 22 August 21) You have a family member so get it in back of you quickly, then you can be off with congenial to an appealing amusement.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Desk work requiring your special consideration should start the

days activities after which you can take up problems that exist at your own residence.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is the morning for you to handle money matters of importance in the morning for later you have outside duties to handle that are pressing.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your own goals should be considered and solved asutely in the morning while later you can get into financial interests from a long term aspect.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A private matter can now be wound up sensibly and later in a good time for you to consider a tense problem with another person and to solve it.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) An important wish at last becomes yours in the morning and then you will be able to get into a secret desire that has been eluding you so go after it.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Do a public matter you have been putting off in the morning then you will be able to get the true facts by deep study of a new venture that interests you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A new situation you have been working on should fall for you in the morning but then you need to get out in the world and handle civic and credit conditions.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MAY 20, 1993

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There are difficult influences at work this afternoon, late that require care on your part, particularly in travel as well as in conversations with others so be on your toes at all times.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Today is one of those times to quietly join with an influential person in finding out what you can do to attain practical objectives, tonight consider the results.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A matter comes into the open where you can get associates to help you make arrangements that will include a good friend who expects much of you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Do your activities in whatever way has been found acceptable to those who have any control over your affairs or devise policies of a public nature.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take some time out now to go after whatever you want of an inspirational nature for your judgment is good and you will be pleased with the results.

LEO: (July 22 August 21) This is your day to get into whatever does not suit any member of your family or household and find ways to change circumstances as mutually beneficial.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You want all sorts of informa-

tion by which you can eliminate errors and build a more secure structure to your life and this is available to you now.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Money and other practical matters are greatly improved by your today by putting your fullest possible attention on and clearing up any confusion.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Seek out an influential person with whom you have a rapport and join with this person to gain an outlet for your latest capabilities.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is one of those days to consider how you can enlarge or make changes where your residence or matters concerning your own home is concerned.

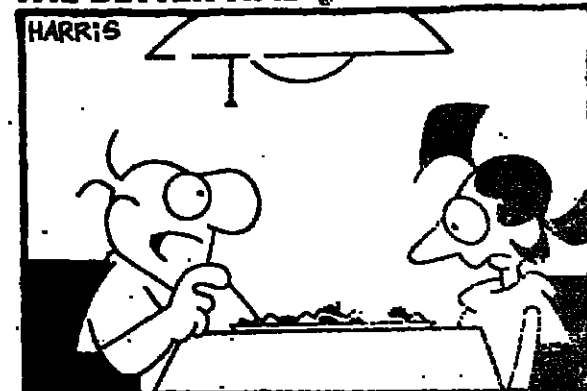
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A purposeful friend of much character knows just what you can do to be more successful and go along with this plan.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have the expertise of a powerful expert to call upon to assist you in any interest you have where money or property matters are involved.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Your judgment is unusually good and accurate for putting in motion a new course of action whereby you can gain the growth that you are seeking for

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Pizza seems less fattening if you cut the pepperoni slices in the shape of Richard Simmons."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

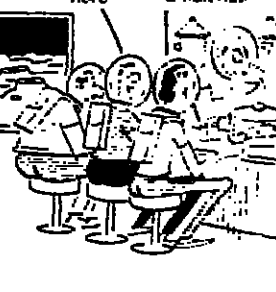
MAWPS

MEPOT

LETHAH

FERPER

Food's great here But not much ambience



Now arrange the circled letters to form the missing answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____

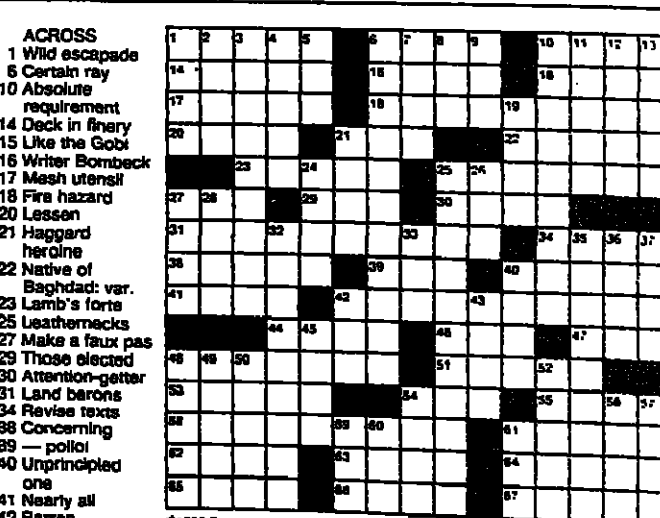
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DRAFT EMPTY INVERT REFUGE

Answer: You can always grow this in your garden if you work hard enough—TIRE

THE Daily Crossword

by Hank Harrington



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Across: Wild escape

2 Across: Certain ray

3 Across: Absolute requirement

4 Across: Deck in library

5 Across: Like the Gobi

6 Across: Writer Bornbeck

7 Across: Mesh internet

8 Across: Fire hazard

9 Across: Lesson

10 Across: Haggard heroine

11 Across: Native of Baghdad: var.

12 Across: Lamb's forte

13 Across: Leathemocks

14 Across: Make a faux pas

15 Across: Those elected

16 Across: Attention-garner

17 Across: Land barons

18 Across: Revise texts

19 Across: Concerning

20 Across: polit

21 Across: Unprincipled one

22 Across: Nearly all

23 Across: barren

24 Across: westland

25 Across: Legatee

26 Across: After expenses

27 Across: Hit sign

28 Across: Raise the standard

29 Across: which way

30 Across: Seer's card

31 Across: Power's home

32 Across: Verve

33 Across: Ephemeral

34 Across: by (comply with)

35 Across: Threat

36 Across: Nobleman

37 Across: Cinemas team

38 Across: Resemblance

39 Across: Wildfire

40 Across: 36 Playwright

41 Across: 37 "A" — clock scholar

42 Across: 40 "Kiss Me"

43 Across: 42 Performed

44 Across: 43 Impose a tax

45 Across: 44 Ones

46 Across: 45 Complete

47 Across: 46 Analyze a sentence

48 Across: 47 Impressive

49 Across: 48 Argue against

50 Across: 49 54 Yarn's capital

51 Across: 50 Somewhat suff.

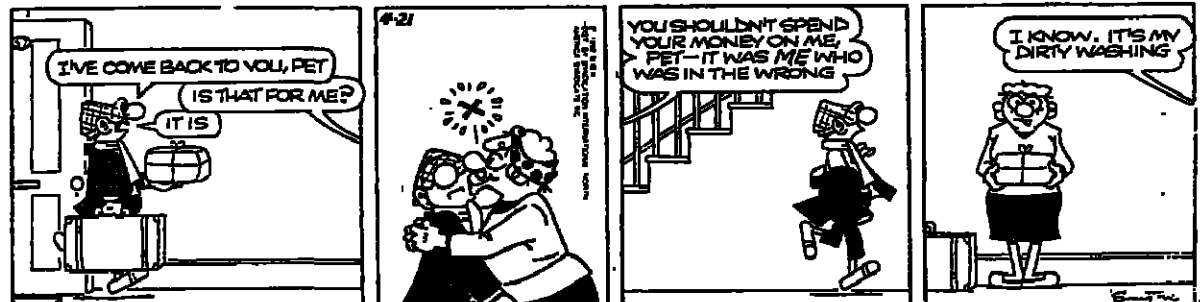
52 Across: 51 Guiltless

53 Across: 52 Commercial

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



MEES: Egypt privatisation bogged down

NICOSIA (R) — Egypt's privatisation process has got bogged down in a messy management structure with few clear directives or allocation of responsibility, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) has said.

The weekly newsletter said holding companies set up to privatise Egypt's huge and ailing public sector as a key part of economic reforms were themselves digging in to stall change.

The World Bank has expressed concern at delays in structural adjustment and privatisations, which were originally planned to start early last year.

Privatisation and the prospect of lay-offs is still politically sensitive for Egypt's government, which has inherited a socialist-leaning economic tradition stretching back for decades. Cairo says it must go slowly to avoid the kind of social upheaval that toppled

governments in eastern Europe.

MEES said many banks consulting to privatise a first batch of 17 companies had stopped working on the project because it was unclear who was going to pay their fees and there were continuing arguments about how much the firms were worth.

The holding company responsible for tourism assets had not met since March because two public sector managers disputed which

of them was removed in a reshuffle. This held up the sell-off of many firms in the first batch, the newsletter said.

The government, which used to be closely involved in running public firms, has largely left the sector to its own devices, delegating management of the whole sector to Prime Minister Atef Sedki who has too many other responsibilities, MEES said.

Cairo economists say a few public managers have taken the initiative in trying to overhaul their sectors but most have consolidated the power of the holding companies, which were originally set up as temporary structures.

Egypt won agreement for more than \$10 billion in debt forgiveness from Paris Club creditors for the economic reforms.

Indians go for gold despite soaring prices

BOMBAY (R) — Soaring world prices, the highest in 23 months, have done nothing to cut India's traditional hunger for gold, dealers and analysts said Wednesday.

"The Indian gold market is going up and will go up. International prices are moving up and local prices are keeping pace," said Bombay Bullion Association President M.L. Damani.

Indian gold prices Tuesday rose 14 rupees to close at 4,381 rupees (\$142.9) per 10 grammes, bullion dealers said.

Mr. Damani believes India has gobbed up 250 tonnes of gold in the year to March 1992, at least half of it smuggled into the country. Official imports of gold have been placed at around 125 tonnes during the year.

In the past month, Indian gold prices have risen from 4,100 rupees (\$130.8) per 10 grammes to 4,500 rupees (\$143.55) even though it is not a traditional gold-buying time of year. Gold in India is a symbol of wealth, and gold jewellery is given by wives

families to their husbands at marriage.

Indian liberalised its gold import policy in March 1992, allowing Indians living abroad to bring in up to five kilograms of the metal, subject to duty. Until then, individuals were not allowed to bring gold into India, although smuggling thrives, mostly via Dubai.

Gold prices, which crashed to 3,900 rupees (\$124.4) in March 1992 when imports were allowed, from 5,000 rupees (\$159.5) in the previous month, have since recovered some of the lost ground.

"I see a bright future for gold," Mr. Damani said. "The demand for gold is always going to be there. It's part of Indian thinking," he added.

Imports have not been able to curb smuggling, financed through "havalas" or unauthorised rupee-dollar deals. Smugglers have a margin of at least 15 per cent over imported gold.

Dealers said that nearly 100 tonnes of gold, worth 20 billion

rupees (\$638 million), has been brought into India both officially and by smuggling in the last four months of calendar 1993.

A recent report of the New York-based World Gold Council, quoted in Indian newspapers, has said India took 114 of the 624 tonnes of gold bought around the world in the first four months of 1993.

"Liberalisation of gold imports by the government has contributed to international demand for gold," said economist S.L. Shetty, who had been associated with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) until recently.

Mr. Shetty said India's consumption of gold was bound to go up because the government was encouraging it.

The government, wanting to stack up its gold reserves and pull money from the country's large informal economy into the system, introduced a scheme under which tax-free bonds are issued against gold.

British Airways launches cash call

LONDON (AFP) — British Airways (B.A.), the biggest British airline, has called on shareholders for a £442 million (\$676 million) cash injection after announcing that pre-tax profits had fallen by 57 per cent in the 12 months to the end of March.

The full-year results showed a profit of £185 million, down at the low end of analysts' expectations, against a profit of £434 million the previous year, the company said.

New chairman Colin Marshall said that the fall in profits reflected the effects of the economic recession and the intense competition the company was facing.

B.A. whose image has recently been tarnished because of a "dirty tricks" row with Virgin Atlantic Airways, added that the 1991-92 results had been amended under new accounting rules to include the profit on the £149 million sale of a maintenance centre in Wales.

Without this inclusion, the fall in profits would have been kept to 35 per cent, the company said. B.A. said it was announcing

Main Arab lender struggling with outstanding debts

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), the Arab World's chief lender, said it is increasingly strapped for funds as Iraq, Sudan and Somalia have failed to pay off more than half a billion dollars in debts.

The AMF said here in its annual report that it has halted loans to those three war-hit countries which accounted for most of the unpaid debts to the Abu Dhabi-based organisation.

"The AMF financial resources are under great pressure due to an increase in outstanding debts by some member states," the report said.

AMF members' total arrears stood around \$74 million at the end of 1992, representing nearly 46 per cent of the fund's capital and up from \$528 million in arrears at the end of 1991.

Iraq's outstanding debt was around \$232 million, Sudan's at \$220 million and Somalia's at \$107 million. Syria and Mauritania accounted for the rest. The debt includes nearly \$397 million in principal, \$149 million in interest and the rest in official interest.

In recent press comments, AMF Chairman Osama Al Faqih said such arrears were affecting the institution's obligations to other members, which badly need funds to finance economic reforms they have just launched.

Economists said they believed the problem could even exacerbate as Iraq is still under United Nations Gulf war sanctions while

the coffers of Sudan and Somalia have been sapped by civil wars.

Before the Gulf war, Iraq was the main contributor to the AMF along with the other oil-rich states in the region. But it was also the main beneficiary from the fund's loans which were used in tackling its balance of payment deficit.

The AMF, with a capital of around \$1.2 billion, was created by the Arab League in 1976 with the primary objective of tackling persistent balance of payment deficits, mainly in poor Arab nations.

But it recently began to switch activities to providing technical assistance and supporting economic reform after more than \$2.4 billion in soft-term loans produced no results.

According to the AMF report, the loans associated with economic reforms soared to 83 per cent of the total AMF loans between 1989 and 1992 from less than 25 per cent in the previous years.

"This was due to a revision of the fund's lending policy which now illustrates a strong tendency to support economic reform programmes in member states, which are eligible for receiving loans," it said.

It said loans and outstanding dues by some member states had sharply exceeded their share in the capital. Somalia's debt accounted for 380 per cent of its share, Sudan's for 308 per cent, Mauritania's for 242 per cent, Morocco's for 148 per cent and Iraq's for 120 per cent.

Arab trade data base nearing completion

ABU DHABI (AFP) — An ambitious data base project launched three years ago to boost flagging inter-Arab trade is nearing completion and officials said they expect it to largely benefit local markets.

The Abu Dhabi-based Arab Trade Financing Programme (ATFP) is carrying out the project, which would distribute information on regional markets that have been little known to Arab exporters due to economic and political problems.

ATFP officials said they had launched the third and last phase of the project early this year, and the base would see light in early 1994.

"It is the first of its kind in the Arab World," the United Arab Emirates ATFP Chairman Osama Al Faqih told Al Bayan newspaper.

"The base will have a positive role in boosting inter-Arab trade as it will identify trade opportunities among regional countries," he said.

Officials said the data base was being set up with the help of the United Nations Development Programme and the International Trade Centre and it would be linked to computerised centres being established in Arab countries.

"It removes a major obstacle for trade among Arab states, which is the lack of information about regional markets. In the long-run, the projects will have a great positive impact on inter-Arab trade," an ATFP official said.

The base would distribute information on the type of products, prices, supply and demand, export potentials, economic policies, exchange rates, transports, investment and trade agreements.

It is the second ambitious project carried out by the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) after it created ATFP with a capital of \$50 million. The AMF has financed half that capital and the rest was contributed by other regional banks and financial institutions.

Russia hails first bond auction as success

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's central bank said Wednesday that commercial banks had bought less than \$1 million worth of treasury bills at a pioneering auction but declared it a revolutionary financial breakthrough.

The bank said commercial banks bought three-month bills with a nominal value of 885.4 million rubles (\$947.965) at the first auction of such securities Tuesday.

The tax-free paper, modelled on U.S. treasury bills, will not dent Russia's debt but could stop the central bank from printing so much inflationary cash to fund the internal debt.

Russian domestic debt is put at 10 trillion rubles (\$10.7 billion) by bankers and foreign debt estimated at \$80 billion.

Despite the small amount sold, bank and finance ministry officials said it would set a benchmark for interest rates and help finance the budget deficit.

"For our banking community it is a big technical breakthrough," Deputy Bank Chairman Dmitry Tulin said. He jokingly compared its significance for Russia's financial community to that of the first space launch for Soviet science.

"We place very big hopes in the launch of these short-term state bonds. It's the first practical step towards a civilised, non-emissionary servicing of the budget deficit," Deputy Finance Minister Sergei Gorbachev told a news conference.

He added that the government expected to sell a total of 650 billion rubles (\$696 million) worth of bonds this year and had written this into its budget forecast.

Central bank officials said last week the budget deficit could hit seven trillion rubles (\$7.49 billion) by the end of June — the target originally set for the entire year.

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - 5th FLOOR TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170 ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 19/05/1993				
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	150,118	151.500	151.500	151.600
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	680,286	8.500	8.500	8.600
BANK OF JORDAN	171,174	18.700	18.600	18.600
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	9,380	4.000	4.000	3.980
THE JORDANIAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	16,437	2.100	2.100	2.100
JORDAN KEMAT BANK	81,637	2.640	2.640	2.670
ARAB JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	25,129	4.400	4.400	4.350
JORDAN TRADING BANK	5,128	4.400	4.400	4.350
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	6,428	4.000	4.000	4.000
BUSINESS BANK	14,486	2.100	2.100	2.100
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,600	6.100	6.100	6.350
BET ELAL BANK INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	18,880	4.000	4.000	4.000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	697,170	2.100	2.100	2.100
PELAGOPOLIS INVESTMENT BANK	769	2.500	2.510	2.510
JORDAN INSURANCE	117,081	2.710	2.840	2.750
GENERAL ARAB INSURANCE	1,508	3.380	3.350	3.350
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	363,863	3.510	3.500	3.520
ROYAL LAND INSURANCE	148,355	3.000	3.000	3.000
JORDAN LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	17,180	2.910	2.900	2.900
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE	660	3.450	3.450	3.450
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	19,940	1.950	1.950	1.940
TRIED DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	818	1.220	1.210	1.210
VEHICLES COMPANY INVESTMENT	11,894	2.950	2.950	2.950
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	2,935	8.840	8.810	8.870
JORDANIAN TRAVELING LINES	858	2.230	2.220	2.220
JORDAN TOURISM & SPA COMPLEX	2,609	0.630	0.630	0.620
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	104,412	1.170	1.160	1.160
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	84,261	0.950	0.930	0.920
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	48,355	1.000	1.000	1.000
JORDAN INVESTMENT TRADING CENTER	13,799	1.900	1.920	1.920
MAHJANIN GROUP, TRADING & MAINTENANCE	3,822	3.310	3.300	3.310
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONCORD HOTELS	84,095	2.270	2.250	2.250
ATTACHMENT CONSTRUCTION MANUFACTURING	1,880	1.920	1.950	1.950
THE JORDANIAN CEMENT	201,328	3.350	3.250	3.250
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	88,400	4.380	4.400	4.400
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	21,061	10.610	10.610	10.610
WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	63,678	3.140	3.150	3.140
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	151,823	2.380	2.380	2.380
THE JORDANIAN MINERAL WATERS	48,355	10.000	10.000	10.000
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	568,182	7.000	7.000	7.120
JORDAN CEMENT INDUSTRIES	369,364	7.750	7.700	7.830
JORDAN DRIFT	2,185	2.210	2.210	2.210
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	20,462	3.010	3.010	3.010
JORDAN PAPER & CARBON FACTORIES	26,790	4.050	4.040	4.040
ARAB CHEMICAL DEFENSES INDUSTRIES	38,000	22.500	22.500	22.500
SPINNING & WEAVING	26,773	3.200	3.200	3.200
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	11,149	0.680	0.680	0.680
BAR AL DINI DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	1,124,226	10.040	10.040	10.040
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	34,677	3.400	3.400	3.350
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	2,150,228	10.040	10.040	10.040
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	148,610	2.140	2.140	2.140
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	635	0.830	0.800	0.820
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	42,115	8.800	8.800	8.840
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	420,580	4.400	4.420	4.490
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	27,508	4.400	4.400	4.350
JORDAN POLYMER INDUSTRIES	26,760	2.940	3.010	2.980
UNION CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	88,848	4.800	4.800	4.810
ALUMINUM INDUSTRIES	9,638	4.740	4.800	4.850
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATERIALS	1,310	4.800	4.800	4.800
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	64,335	0.580	0.580	0.580
JORDAN MOOD INDUSTRIES / JINCO	20,194	4.200	4.250	4.250
JORDAN SILICO-CHEMICALS	92,695	4.980	4.980	4.980
ARAB CENTER FOR PERMANENT & CHEMICALS	130,243	4.160	4.160	4.160
JORDAN HURRY CO. FOR AGRIC. & FOOD PROD.	22,678	1.840	1.980	1.980
KANTHER INVESTMENT	20,810	3.450	3.820	3.820
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	996,467	5.600	5.600	5.600
GRAND TOTAL 9,794,295				
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET 276875				
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET 308886				

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar
1.2651/56	1.6162/62
1.6162/62	1.8115/25
1.8115/25	1.4685/95
1.4685/95	33.22/24
33.22/24	5.4450/500
5.4450/500	1468/1471
1468/1471	111.20/25
111.20/25	7.3400/500
7.3400/500	6.3850/950
6.3850/950	6.1950/2050
6.1950/2050	\$1.5440/50
\$1.5440/50	One ounce of gold \$381.50/382.50

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 18/5/93	Tokyo Close 19/5/93
Sterling Pound	1.5354	1.5370
Deutsche Mark	1.6247	1.6236
Swiss Franc	1.4802	1.4745
French Franc	5.4785	5.4785
Japanese Yen	111.48	111.56
European Currency Unit	1.2045	1.2033

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MYR	3 MYR	6 MYR	12 MYR
U.S. Dollar	3.00	3.12	3.21	3.56
Sterling Pound	6.03	6.00	6.00	6.25
Deutsche Mark	7.50	7.31	7.00	6.50
Swiss Franc	4.93	4.93	4.75	4.50
French Franc	7.75	7.37	7.00	6.56
Japanese Yen	3.18	3.18	3.28	3.31
European Currency Unit	8.00	7.62	7.37	7.06

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6880	0.6900
Sterling Pound	1.0550	1.0603
Deutsche Mark	0.4228	0.4249
Swiss Franc	0.4654	0.4677
French Franc	0.1254	0.1260
Japanese Yen	0.6158	0.6189
Dutch Guilder	0.3769	0.3788
Swedish Krona	0.0934	0.0939
Italian Lira	0.0466	0.0468
Belgian Franc	0.02055	0.02066

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8020	1.8350
Lebanese Lira	0.038550	0.040589</

Russia junks bid for U.N. summit on Bosnia

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Russia has abandoned its effort to convene a Security Council summit of foreign ministers to devise a peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Russia wanted to force peace upon Bosnia's Serbs in stages, but U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher disagreed.

Moscow's failure reflects the divisions between Russia and the West and among North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies which have made the international community impotent in ending the war.

Ministerial-level summits of the Security Council are supposed to provide a powerful existing pressure of the world's unanimity to curb aggression.

Instead, the Council will take a step a grab bag of measures that are unlikely to end the fighting in the former Yugoslav state.

It plans to station at least 500 border patrol officers on Serbia's side of the Bosnian border to make sure Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic keeps his troops from crossing into Bosnia.

Mr. Milosevic declared the embargo after the Bosnian Serbs facing a U.N. peace plan.

Mediated by international mediators Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance.

On Wednesday, the council will consult on establishing a war crimes tribunal in the Hague.

It will also consider a French plan to post 40,000 U.N. troops to protect six safe havens for Bosnia's outgunned Muslims.

President Bill Clinton wants more aggressive action than this to curb Serbian advances.

The council will also discuss augmenting the U.N. observer force in Macedonia with U.S. troops, an idea Mr. Clinton says he would consider.

Bosnian Ambassador Muhammad Sacirbey cautioned against a committee approach.

"We believe that piecemeal measures can only prolong the agony of our people," he said.

"Creating safe havens without any vision of how to fully implement the Vance-Owen plan or

bring true peace to our country will do not much more than create ethnic ghettos in our country... a mini-Gaza Strip."

Russian Ambassador Yuli Vorontsov, Council President for May, tried for weeks to convene a foreign ministers' meeting and tentatively set a Friday date.

But Mr. Christopher said Monday he would not attend, and diplomats said China was among other nations unlikely to send ministers.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev is due in Washington Thursday for talks with Mr. Christopher, followed Monday by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe.

Mr. Christopher told the House Foreign Affairs Committee Tuesday.

"The only way out could enforce... (peace on) the Bosnian Serbs would be with troops on the ground. You certainly can't enforce something as complex as the Vance-Owen plan with air power. And the United States is not prepared to use its military forces to try to compel the parties to agree to a plan."

He said he persuaded Mr. Kozyrev by phone Monday to postpone his proposal.

Mr. Christopher had toured European capitals vainly trying to rally support for the U.S. approach: Lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia so the Muslims can acquire heavy weapons to match the Serbs, and selective air strikes on Bosnian Serb targets.

Britain and France fear the Serbs would retaliate by attacking U.N. peacekeepers, thousands of them British and French.

Foes of lifting the arms embargo argue it would only mean more violence.

Fierce battles between Bosnia's Muslims and Croats also forced Washington to reexamine its thinking.

Mr. Vorontsov told the 14 other Council ambassadors Tuesday he was scrapping the attempt to convene a ministerial summit for now. No new summit date was set, ambassadors said later.

Mr. Clinton said Tuesday he is uncertain if the U.N.-brokered

peace plan for Bosnia remained viable after rejection by Bosnian Serbs.

Arriving in Los Angeles, Mr. Clinton was asked whether the so-called Vance-Owen plan was dead.

"The question is whether the process is alive. I don't know. You know, the map has always been in question. The question is whether the process is alive," he said.

Asked later if he has given up on Bosnia, Mr. Clinton said, "Oh, I never give up on anything. You know me." He ignored a number of other questions about the crisis.

Lord Owen said his peace plan for Bosnia was on track after Croats and Muslims agreed a truce, but the United States and Russia disagreed whether the formula to end the 13-month war would ever work.

The Bosnian Serbs were ready to strike another blow to Lord Owen's efforts when their assembly met Wednesday to consider the results of a weekend referendum that overwhelmingly rejected the plan in favour of a separate "Serb republic."

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali cast doubt on the future of peacekeeping forces in neighbouring Croatia, saying he was unsure whether to pull them out because of problems with local Serbs, though their mandate or leave their role unchanged.

"Having considered these three options very carefully, I have concluded that it would not be advisable for me at this moment to recommend that the (Security) Council adopt any of the options," he said.

He added that he would await a report from Lord Owen's fellow mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg, who recently succeeded former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and is visiting the region.

Lord Owen's upbeat comments came after talks with Bosnian Muslim and Croat leaders Tuesday in the Bosnian town of Medjugorje, a Catholic place of pilgrimage near the city of Mostar, where Croat and Muslim forces have clashed bitterly.



A Croatian soldier peers carefully from his firing position during clashes between Croat and Muslim-led Bosnians in Mostar (AFP photo)

Better to intervene in Burma than Bosnia — U.K. think tank

LONDON (R) — A top think tank said Wednesday the United Nations had to choose which conflicts it could stop by sending in troops and which it couldn't, and that there was a better case for intervening in Burma than in Bosnia.

"There are simply not enough human and financial resources... to call to account all the inhumane regimes... that are oppressing the weak and the innocent around the world," said the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).

"For the same reasons as in medicine, choices must be made and resources must be rationed," it said in "strategic survey 1992-1993."

The survey is an analysis of the world scene over a year in which the institute said, "almost everything that could go wrong did go wrong."

The independent London-based institute, which has members in more than 85 countries, said the U.N. should intervene only in situations where it could earn "something besides opprobrium," and that military leaders were right to be wary of involvement in Bosnia.

Even if peace could be imposed, it would collapse as soon as an outside force was withdrawn, it said.

But it also criticised the European Community (EC) for engaging in "tortuous negotiations" which it described as being cynically manipulated by the warring parties. Instead, it should have tried to physically isolate former Yugoslavia to prevent arms flooding in.

The institute said the best policy now would be to impose tough penalties on countries that violated U.N. sanctions against Serbia, coupled with an offer of diplomatic and economic aid to the parties to the conflict once they decided to stop fighting.

It said the bloodshed in Bosnia caused outrage among Western television viewers but that "in the cold terms of realism" it did not threaten outside powers and U.N. choices should not be based on media coverage.

"On humanitarian grounds and in defence of Western political values, a better argument can be made for intervening in Burma than in Bosnia-Herzegovina," the institute said.

It described Burma's military leadership, which ignored the results of 1990 elections that it lost, as vicious and said "intervention there would have a clear aim, a finite end, and the support of the majority of the people."

The institute said Somalia, where an ineffectual U.N. force of 500 men was followed last December by a 37,000-strong U.N.-led multinational force, showed what needed to be done where intervention was considered feasible.

enforce a peace that the local fighters themselves are unwilling to keep," it said.

It said the U.N. had now learnt the lesson that sending a few peacekeepers into a chaotic situation, with inadequate logistical support, restrictive rules of engagement and a mandate that stopped them acting was a "meaningless gesture."

Listing setbacks over the past year, the survey said the EC and the GATT trade talks failed to live up to hopes. Russia was in political and economic chaos, Middle East talks faltered, peace deals frayed in Angola and Cambodia, and famine stalked Africa.

In Russia, the institute said that while as a general rule the international community should not rely on individuals, it should make an exception by aiding President Boris Yeltsin.

"Yeltsin's shiny armour is tarnished, but he still appears the best man in Russia for this season," it said.

The survey went to press before Mr. Yeltsin's victory last month in a referendum on his rule and sketched a disastrous picture of what would happen if he was ousted.

It said the economy would spiral out of control, Russian regions would seize on the collapse of central government to assert control over their affairs and the new nations of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe would feel threatened.

Guatemalan lawmaker shot bodyguard killed

GUATEMALA CITY (Agencies) — Unidentified gunmen opened fire on Guatemalan congressman Obdulio Chinchilla Vega Tuesday, seriously injuring him and killing his bodyguard.

Mr. Chinchilla was leaving his home in Guatemala City when the gunmen opened fire on his car. Presidential spokesman Arturo Alvarado told reporters. The motive was not immediately clear.

The shooting came the day after Mr. Chinchilla revealed that another of his bodyguards, who has since fled, was responsible for shooting a student during a street protest outside the Congress last week.

Hundreds of Guatemalan students, hurling petrol bombs and rocks, battled riot police Tuesday after the police tried to break up their protest, witnesses said.

Fire brigades said they took 16 riot policemen to hospital while

students said they treated three of their colleagues for injuries. Another three students were arrested, students said.

The two sides battled for at least three hours outside the state-run San Carlos University, with police withdrawing at around 5 p.m. (2100 GMT) as darkness approached.

The protest by nearly 1,000 students was in support of secondary school students who rioted in Guatemala City last week because of the phasing out of a transport subsidy.

The students are also protesting against electricity price hikes implemented as part of an International Monetary Fund plan to end government subsidies.

Political killings continue in Guatemala, despite the civilian government's pledge to end them, Amnesty International said Wednesday.

Opponents of the government of President Jorge Serrano Elias

also have been tortured and some simply "disappear," the London-based human rights group said in a new report.

"The government may have changed, but the violations are going on," Amnesty International said.

The president, who pledged to protect human rights when he was sworn in on Jan. 15, 1991, "has singularly failed to do so," it said.

Amnesty International, which documented "tens of thousands" of human rights violations in the past 20 years, said the number of political killings by government forces has dropped — "but we have yet to see whether this will be a lasting improvement."

"Sadly, the odds are against it. Harassment, intimidation and death threats are on the increase, violators from the past are still walking free and the repressive structures are still in place."

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. to recognise Angolan government

NEW YORK (AP) — President Clinton has decided to recognise the Angolan government, reversing Washington's longstanding hostility toward the once-Soviet-backed regime, according to a published report. The New York Times reported in its Wednesday edition that Mr. Clinton would recognise the administration of Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, which is battling the rebel group Union For Total Independence of Angola, known as UNITA.

During the cold war, the United States and South Africa supported UNITA in its war against the Dos Santos government, which was supported by the Soviet Union and Cuba. The war broke out after the former Portuguese colony on the southwest coast of Africa gained independence in 1975. Last September, Mr. Dos Santos defeated rebel leader Jonas Savimbi in a U.N.-certified election. Mr. Dos Santos failed to achieve an overall majority, however, and was to face Mr. Savimbi in a runoff election. Mr. Savimbi returned to the battlefield, charging that the election was rigged.

Pretoria says U.S. report biased

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The South African government described as misleading and biased Wednesday a report by a U.S.-based human rights group which accused it of failing to act firmly against political violence in which thousands have died.

Law and Order Ministry spokesman Craig Kotze said Africa Watch had chosen to ignore one of the prime causes of the violence, the power struggle between the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) of chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC). "The bias of this Africa Watch report, and its failure to take cognisance of the true nature of violence in South Africa, make it part of the problem, not the solution," he told Reuters.

Troops mutiny in Central Africa

BANGUI (R) — Regular troops in the Central African Republic staged a mutiny over pay Wednesday following a weekend rebellion by the elite Presidential Guard. Residents said the soldiers sealed off the state treasury and seized official vehicles in the capital Bangui early Wednesday. The mutineers also blocked the main road leading north out of the riverside capital, residents added. State radio was protected by members of an armoured regiment loyal to President Andre Kolingba, drawn mainly from the Yakoma ethnic group. Military sources said anger erupted when regular troops were paid only one month of their eight-month salary Tuesday. Presidential Guards obtained two of the eight months' pay after a four-hour mutiny Saturday in which they took over the presidential palace, presidential residence and radio station.

Charles Praises Polish courage

WARSAW (AP) — Britain's Prince Charles won the hearts of Warsaw University professors and students when he quoted a Polish romantic poet in clear Polish. Earlier on the second of four days in Poland, the prince had laid a wreath of white, red and purple flowers at the monument to the 1944 Warsaw uprising against the Nazis, and praised the courage of the Polish people.

He also met with Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka. At Warsaw University, the prince spoke of the spirit of Poles that "shone like a beacon" as they fought through an "appalling catalogue of innumerable crimes." "This century, during the lifetime of our own parents, you have known an abyss of suffering which to most people in Britain is incomprehensible," he said. The prince began his address in Polish, quoting lines from a 19th century poet, Juliusz Slowacki. "I want my tongue to be flexible enough to express everything that the mind thinks of," Prince Charles said in Polish.

Moscow City to sue Gorbachev

MOSCOW (AP) — Mikhail Gorbachev's outspokenness is coming back to haunt him. Moscow officials said they will sue the former Soviet president for accusing them of building luxurious dachas, a news agency said. Mr. Gorbachev said on local television last week that the city government was building a dozen three-story country homes in a picturesque region outside the capital. He called for investigators to trace the source of the money.

Yeltsin opponent calls for compromise

MOSCOW (AP) — The deputy speaker of Russia's parliament has said that lawmakers must abandon their confrontational approach in dealings with President Boris Yeltsin, a news agency reported.

Nikolai Ryabov's comments seemed to affirm his split with speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, Mr. Yeltsin's main political rival, and were the most supportive for the president among leaders of the hostile parliament.

The parliament's strategy "demands serious corrections," Mr. Ryabov said, according to ITAR-TASS.

"I believe it is inadmissible to continue the line to direct confrontation with the president," he said.

Last Friday, Mr. Ryabov told lawmakers that Mr. Yeltsin was "justified" in summoning a convention next month to draft a new constitution that would strengthen the presidency.

U.N.: Khmer Rouge is stronger, more extreme

PHNOM PENH (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas trying to sabotage Cambodia's election are much stronger, better-armed and under more extreme leadership than previously, the head U.N. peacekeeper here said Wednesday.

Addressing staff of his U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Yasushi Akashi said the guerrillas had increased their military strength by at least 50 per cent and had obtained new weapons as the election approaches.

"They are operating in larger units and they are led by commanders who are more extremist than past leaders. So we have to be prepared," he said. "It is more than likely that they will try to hinder the election process."

This could include shooting voters, mining roads and artillery attacks, he said.

Mr. Akashi was speaking on the final day of campaigning for the May 23-28 election, the country's first multi-party polls after more than two decades of war and revolution.

Although it signed an internationally sponsored four-faction peace agreement in 1991, the Khmer Rouge has since opted out of the peace process. It has vowed to thwart the elections with violence, saying they will serve only to legitimise its bitter enemy, the Phnom Penh govern-

ment. The government was installed by Vietnamese troops who invaded Cambodia in December 1978 to end the Khmer Rouge's 3½ years of fanatical rule, which cost more than a million lives.

Fighting between Khmer Rouge forces and the government flared again Wednesday morning in two provinces, Kampot in the south and Siem Reap in the northwest, and several shells landed near Siem Reap Airport.

Military observers on the 22,000-strong UNTAC force say the Khmer Rouge have been mobilising more forces in recent months. They have reported unusually large troop movements across the guerrillas' northwestern zones.

In the past, UNTAC officials have estimated the Khmer Rouge had about 10,000 fighters under arms.

Mr. Akashi said he had warned leaders of the government against using violence during the election. UNTAC has blamed government forces for killing dozens of political opponents in the past year.

Mr. Akashi said conditions in most provinces would be safe for election organisers. "But please don't be complacent," he told the audience. "The situation could suddenly change and we could be faced with unpleasant surprises."

Already this year 14 UNTAC

peacekeepers have been killed in attacks, most of which have been blamed on the Khmer Rouge.

Hundreds of volunteer polling monitors from dozens of countries have come to Cambodia to help with elections, the first ever to be directly organised by the United Nations.

An UNTAC spokesman said the volunteers, who include former French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson and former Australian Foreign Minister Andrew Peacock, would be issued with protective flak jackets and helmets on request.

All UNTAC military personnel except military observers had been ordered to carry weapons on duty, the spokesman said.

He said UNTAC had been forced to reduce by 60 the number of voting sites because of the security risk. The total number of sites is about 1,500.

Mr. Akashi concedes UNTAC has not been able to create neutral conditions for the polls but insists they must go ahead on schedule otherwise they will not be held at all.

"I am sure that we can have elections that are fairly respectable and credible in Cambodia," he said.

"Despite the dangers and the intimidation, I think that we should go out and work for the best possible result under the circumstances."

"We are wide awake to the difficulties, but it is my considered judgement that we are ready and we should conduct these elections," he said.

Cambodia's opposition Royalist Party openly cooperates on military operations with the Khmer Rouge, three former Royalist commanders said at a news conference Wednesday.

General Kann Rath, who defected to the Phnom Penh government earlier this year but has rarely been seen in public, said the Royalist FUNCINPEC Party cooperated with the Khmer Rouge attack on Siem Reap on May 3.

"There is clear evidence and cannot be rejected," he said.

Also appearing at the news conference were General Kim Hang and General Sou Kimsan, both former senior staff officers of the military arm of FUNCINPEC, a French acronym for National United Front For an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia.

FUNCINPEC led by Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the son of the country's head of state, Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

A FUNCINPEC spokeswoman said of the charges: "These people had some problems and some debts and I suppose the state of Cambodia has offered them a lot of money, villas and cars as compensation."

U.N. says 9 out of 10 lack power over their lives

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Despite worldwide trends towards democracy, 90 per cent of the world's population have no control over institutions directly affecting their lives, according to a U.N. report.

Poor people, women, immigrants, religious and ethnic minorities in many countries have little access to legal systems, unions, government bodies and institutions which enable them to earn a living or get health care and schooling.

"Exclusion rather than inclusion is the prevailing reality," said Mahbub Ul Haq, former Pakistani finance minister and architect of the 1993 Human Development Report.

The report ranks countries according to a human development index, which combines life expectancy, literacy and distribution of income or basic purchasing power. It is generally linked with overall economic prosperity.

The index is aimed at challenging governments and institutions such as the World Bank to stress investment in human resources and grass roots control.

The report calls for a restructuring of foreign aid to boost contributions to health, education and other basic needs to 20 per cent from seven per cent.

The index, used for the fourth consecutive year, puts Japan in first place followed by Canada, which ranked first last year.

Japan and several other East Asian countries have invested more in education and training and have lower unemployment.

In third place is Norway, followed by Switzerland, Sweden, the United States, Australia, France, the Netherlands and Britain.

The United States would rank first in the world if only whites were considered, the report said.

It was singled out for disparities between whites and black and Hispanic minorities as an example of a developed country which had stark contrasts as well as being a "remarkably open society" attempting to combat discrimination.

African-Americans, if a separate nation, would rank 31st, the same as Trinidad and Tobago while Hispanics would rank 35th below the Bahamas, South Korea and Estonia.

"It is the tip of the iceberg compared to minorities elsewhere," Mr. Haq said.

Nearly every country has at least one group whose access to resources falls far below the national average.

"It is clear that certain groups, whether they are poor, women, minorities or rural dwellers, just do not participate, do not have access to power and do not share in the benefits of the economy in most countries of the world," the report said.

In Chile, the real income of the poorest 20 per cent fell three per cent between 1970 and 1988, while that of the richest 20 per cent rose 10 per cent.

Landless people in Bangladesh make up half of rural households but receive only 17 per cent of credit.

Industrialised countries were on top, followed by Latin American nations, East and South East Asian states, Arab states, South Asia nations and Africa.

COLUMN 8

Cheers final episode vies for slot in top 10 shows

LOS ANGELES (R) — When the cast of U.S. television's Cheers steps up to the bar for last call Thursday, there will be more at stake than a final round of drinks. The much-ballyhooed final episode of the long-running comedy series is vying for a spot in the top tier of most-watched entertainment shows. NBC had been promoting the show heavily, with on-air advertisements and radio promotions including trivia quizzes. The final episode of MASH, which aired in February 1983, ranks as the most watched show ever, with an audience of 50.2 million homes, or 77 per cent of the total television audience at the time, according to the Nielsen Television Index. Although Cheers is expected to get a large audience officials at NBC — the network that had broadcast the show throughout its 11 years on the air — and industry observers said changes in television make it increasingly more difficult for any single show to become a blockbuster. "It's difficult in this age of wide viewer choices to set records," said David Davis, an analyst with Paul Kagan Associates, a research firm based in Carmel, California.

Journalist grows impatient

CANNES — (R) Despite the ceaseless chatter about productions present and future, some things always remain secret. One British journalist grew impatient with Robert De Niro and Uma Thurman praising each other's acting talent during a news conference to promote their new film Mad Dog And Glory. "I'm bored with platitudes. What is it really like on set?" he asked. "Yeah, like we're going to tell you," De Niro snapped back. "Write what you like, that's what you do anyway."

Joan Collins gives free advice

CANNES (R) — In Collins, known for her bitchy roles on screen, had gentler advice to give when asked about the secrets of her enduring beauty. What advice would she give to the young starlets on the beach in Cannes? "Cover your boobs and stay out of the sun," came the smart answer.

Gorbachev impresses in screen debut

CANNES (AFP) — Mikhail Gorbachev made his debut appearance as a screen actor in Wim Wenders' Faraway, So Close, presented here in competition. Describing the filming, Wenders said the former Soviet leader had shown "incredible emotional depth" in his contribution in which he improvised a voice-over interior monologue. "He really thought his way into the role," Wenders said. "He improvised for around 20 minutes, and it was very difficult to boil it down to the two-and-a-half minutes that we needed." Mr. Gorbachev appears as himself in a non-speaking role, signing a document, but his voice is heard expressing his inner thoughts. The scene was shot four times, "and it got better every time," Wenders said. "Hewas nervous at first, but so was everyone else, especially Otto Sanders," the leading actor. Sanders plays the role of an angel who moves around unseen and unheard, and puts his arm around Gorbachev's shoulders.

Girl, 8, escapes after being run over by train

WILLINGTON, Conn. (AP) — An 8-year-old girl lay frozen in terror on railroad tracks as a freight train passed over her, missing her by no more than a foot. "Don't tell mom," went Nicole Bernier's first words to her brother when she got up screaming and crying. Her only injuries were the bruises she suffered when she fell trying to get out of the way of the 12-car train, state police said. Nicole, who lives near the tracks, said she tripped twice trying to get out of the way of the train. She remembers little of the moments when the train passed over her and thinks she woke up. "A little bit at the end I was up," she said. Nicole, her brother, Robert, 10, and a friend had wandered down the tracks when the central Vermont railway train suddenly appeared around a bend travelling 40 mph (64 kph). After the train passed, David said Nicole made no sound. "I thought she was dead," he said. Then, she got up crying and screaming. "Don't tell mom," he said.